Monday, May 21, 2012 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 162 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

**HEAVENLY SHOW** A partial solar eclipse will be visible early today in Metro Manila, as depicted in a series of illustrations by the UP Los Baños Astronomical Society.

## A celestial treat for early risers

By Kristine L. Alave

A RARE phenomenon called annular solar eclipse will make the sun appear as if it were a ring of fire with a black center. Actually, the moon will be crossing between the Earth and the sun, obscuring the latter except for its edges.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

A CELESTIAL A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

## Transgender beauty loses in Miss U tilt

TORONTO—The first-ever transgender contestant to compete in the Miss Universe Canada pageant oh-of-the runway on Saturday night, making it to the pen-ultimate round before losing her bid to win the title

TRANSGENDER A4

# 'CJ leaving fate to God'

## Corona preparing on his own, says defense

By TJ Burgonio

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona skipped a key meeting with his lawyers yesterday, telling them to make it a "family day," a sign, they said, that he "wants to prepare on his own" for his much-anticipated appearance in his impeachment trial tomorrow.

Corona has been sifting through documents and "mulling facts" for his defense on the main charge of nondisclosure of assets, including an alleged $12 million in bank accounts, said Rico Ibasis Quicho, a spokesperson for the defense.

When the Chief Justice takes the witness stand, expect him to be "candid, forthright and truthful," Quicho said.

Corona will also invoke his right against self-incrimination, if necessary, the lawyer said, adding that the Chief Justice also was preparing himself "physically, mentally and spiritually."

"He'll be guided by God. He's ready to face his fate," Quicho said by phone.

"We're hoping for the best and expecting the worst," said another defense lawyer, Tranquil Salvador III.

Today, the senator-judges are set to meet in a closed-door executive session on Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

Sotto said these include,

CLAMORING A14

**FAMILY DAY** Chief Justice Renato Corona hugs a granddaughter during the last day of a recess at the Supreme Court in Manila. He is expected to testify at the impeachment court tomorrow. RICHARD ROYO

## The last witness: Prelude to mistrial?

By Amanda Doronila

THIS ARTICLE presents a summary of the extralegal interventions impinging on the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona as it winds down at the end of this month. It does not address legal issues stemming from the trial, an examination of which is better left to lawyers in both the prosecution and defense panels. It is more about the highly charged atmosphere surrounding the climactic phase of the trial.

**ANALYSIS**

Corona will have his day in court tomorrow. He will appear for the first time to confront his accusers as the last witness for the defense.

As he prepares to take the witness stand, he runs into a deluge of damning evidence dumped by prosecutors, hailed by the resources of the entire machinery of the administration of President Aquino, into the impeachment tribunal, as well as into the mass media, in

THE LAST! A16

## No politics, just bloc vote, says INC member

By Gil C. Cabacungan

IGLESIA ni Cristo (INC) votes as a bloc in elections, but it never dips its fingers in politics, a member of the religious sect said yesterday.

Lawyer Ferdinand Topacio, an INC follower, said he was "offended" and "outraged" by the Inquirer's report on Saturday that INC officials had been seeing senators to lobby for the acquittal of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"Except to vote as one during elections in accordance with our fundamental beliefs, we do not intervene in politics, and it is offensive to say otherwise," said Topacio, a lawyer for Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Topacio said that while he was not authorized to speak for INC, "I believe I speak for most of the brethren who are outraged that the church was placed in a bad light on the basis of unsubstantiated rumors. We wished that the Inquirer would have left the church out of the disinformation and psychological warfare campaigns being waged in connection with the Corona impeachment trial."

The Inquirer reported that INC officials Eraston Ortaza and Henry Lanaza had met discreetly

NO POLITICS! A14

## 'We'll get back what is ours'

By Cynthia D. Balana

HONOLULU—Chief Justice Renato Corona, whether found guilty or innocent in his Senate impeachment trial, will be made liable, along with his wife Cristina and daughter Carla, for usurping Basa-Guidote Enterprises Inc. (BGEI) from its stockholders and squandering its finances, according to an heir of the corporation's majority stockholders.

"He and Cristina and Carla will not be off the hook after the impeachment (trial). We will not let this go away. We will get back what is rightfully ours," said Ana Basa, second of nine children of Jose Maria Basa III, who was one of the original stockholders of BGEI.

Corona is also facing

WE'LL GET! A16

THE CORONA TESTIMONY

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**Twitter** Tell us your reactions to Corona's testimony by using the #Coronatrial hashtag

## On Navy Day, read-along held in 8 provinces

READ-ALONG Children listen to a Navy storyteller during a read-along at the Naval Station Johnson A. Aranzazu Naval Forces in Albay

By the Inquirer Read-Along Team

FOR SOE CHILLIEN, it was a day for make-believe.

Gathered in separate groups in various locations around the country, the youngsters—for a few hours, at least—turned into environmental warriors battling to save the "pawikan" (sea turtle) from extinction or fighting fishermen engaged in dynamite fishing.

They also rode a whale as it swam toward a ship it had fallen in love with.

These were the highlights of Saturday's special Inquirer Read-Along sessions held in Manila and eight provinces to mark the

ON NAVY DAY! A18

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**US,** other nations helping PH with defense–DFA / A2

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**'Nothing** vulgar in Lady Gaga concert' / A21

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**State colleges:** Bigger, better role in education / H1

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# US, others helping PH defense–DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOREIGN Secretary Albert del Rosario on Saturday said Japan, South Korea and Australia, along with the United States, were helping the Philippines establish a minimum credible defense posture to complement its diplomatic initiative in dealing with its territorial disputes with China.

In a text message to the Inquirer, Del Rosario said Japan would likely provide the country with 10 all-terrain patrol boats under its official development assistance aid and two larger ones as grants.

He said South Korea had provided the Armed Forces of the Philippines equipment, such as vests and helmets, under a lease-purchase agreement. "I understand our defense department is looking to possibly purchase aircraft from them," according to Del Rosario.

In November, President Aquino asked visiting South Korean President Lee Myung-bak for aircraft, patrol boats and other hardware to help boost the country's military amid down-sizing tensions with China over the Spratly islands.

Lee's response was not disclosed but he said that Seoul wanted to help Manila resolve its maritime problems.

### Australian vessels

Wants Australia, Del Rosario said the country could expect to get "a number of vessels for search and rescue, as well as significant training here and abroad for large members of our military" when the status of the visiting forces agreement between the two countries is ratified this week.

Earlier, the military announced it would be getting a second Hamilton-class cutter from the United States.

Del Rosario has repeatedly said the country was determined to "improve our national defense by building a minimum credible defense posture." He said that the Philippines this year would receive $144.66 million (about P6.23 billion) in defense assistance from the United States.

He also said he had secured U.S. funding for a $55 million (about P2.3 billion) radar system for the Philippine Coast Guard.

### 5 Chinese warships

Del Rosario also wants to bring the territorial disputes to an international court for arbitration, but China has opposed this, insisting on bilateral negotiations.

Also yesterday, the Department of National Defense (DND) played down the reported presence of five Chinese warships in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) amid a prolonged territorial standoff in the Huangyan (Scarborough) Shoal.

### In international waters

DND spokesperson Peter Galvez said the Chinese warships were in international waters where they had freedom of navigation.

"So long as they are in international waters, this should not be of serious concern. They are in international waters, there that's part of freedom of navigation," said Galvez.

"There are also ships of other countries there also, go on the area. The West Philippine Sea is a busy maritime transit area."

The report about the deployment of Chinese warships close to the Philippines' maritime territory came in the wake of the docking of a US submarine, the USS Hawk's Carolina, to Subic Bay late week.

The DND has also denied that the port call of the South Carolina was connected to the ongoing territorial dispute between the Philippines and China.

Galvez has said the port call was arranged days before the standoff in Panatag Shoal on April 10, when two Chinese maritime ships prevented a Philippine Navy ship from arresting Chinese poachers.

"It's hard to connect these. It's more for us to capitalize on the access of other countries," he said.

# Taiwanese tourists rush in where Chinese fear to tread

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Travel and booking cancellations by mainland Chinese tourists are affecting the businesses of tour operators and resorts in Bohol and Cebu, two of the country's major tourist destinations.

The drop, however, was partly filled by Taiwanese tourists, who had received their interest in visiting the Philippines by the middle of 2011, according to Bohol-based businesswoman Lourdes Sabras.

Sabras, owner of Village Hearing Resto and Cruises, told about 500 Chinese tourists canceled their bookings a few days after the Chinese government issued a warning against traveling to the Philippines on May 11.

### Group travel

"The Chinese tourists travel in groups so there is really a significant drop in terms of numbers. The Taiwanese tourists have returned again after visiting Bohol middle of last year, so that is a way across as a buffer," Sabras told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

In Cebu, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa rules and marketing director Agnes Bain admitted receiving inquiries for postponement of bookings although she expressed confidence that the situation was temporary and would not adversely affect business.

On Cacilagan Island, located 40 minutes from Lapu-Lapu City, jet ski driver Jojemar Yaghoy noted a big drop in the number of regular Chinese tourists.

### Income down

Yaghoy, 24, said his monthly income of P5,000 was now down to P2,000.

"Our regular tourists advised our office that they cannot travel to the Philippines at the moment. I think it is because of the dispute between the two governments," he said in Cebuano.

On Thursday, Barangay Cansaga in Cha-it Ravelo Abayon said that more than 100 Taiwanese tourists visited the island known for its fresh seafood and quiths. The tourists were booked in resorts in Bohol and Cebu.

Taiwanese Mei Lingling said she was traveling with her family and visiting at a Bohol resort.

"The Philippines is safe. There is nothing to worry about. We have good food, good people and good scenery. It's a place for relaxation," she said.

Cebu Association of Tour Operators director Alice Quetulio said hotel and transport operators as well as restaurants were directly affected by the travel advisory since Chinese nationals were their top clients next to Koreans.

### Charters canceled

Airline companies such as Zest Air and Cebu Pacific have suspended chartered flights from Chinese cities to the Philippines.

Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog said that beginning May 12, they will suspend their twice-weekly charter services between Shanghai and Clark on the request of the charter based in China.

But all other Cebu Pacific flights to mainland China destinations namely, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and China's special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau, would continue to operate as scheduled.

### Unwanted, unwelcome

Cecile Sun, president of travel agency Blue Horizons, described cancellations as "the most unwanted and unwelcome work for travel and tour operators because its results mean business lost to operators."

"Definitely, it will leave tourist arrivals in the country. The Chinese embassy might have issued travel advisories to their people to hold on to travel plans as the Philippines until the issues are resolved and the might take a long wait to normalize," Sun said.

The Department of Tourism in Central Visayas recorded 35,000 tourists from China in 2011. About 20,000 Chinese nationals visited the region in the first two months of 2012.

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# Stop purchase of PCOS machines, SC urged

MILLIONS of an election watchdog have intervened their appeal to the Supreme Court to stop the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from buying Smartmatic Corp.'s previous vote optical scan (PCOS) machines for next year's election polls.

In a 65-page memorandum submitted to the high court, Automated Elections System (AES) Watch, led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., said the Comelec acted with grave abuse of discretion when it decided to buy the machines for P1.8 billion without a public bidding and despite the alleged poor performance of the machines in the 2010 polls.

AES Watch said the Comelec's option to purchase the machines under its old contract with Smartmatic had expired in April 2011 as the deed of sale executed in March this year constituted an "entirely new and negotiated contract" made without a public bidding.

The group also noted the Comelec for approving its advisory council which had disapproved the further use of the PCOS machines due to glitches and the deactivation of its security features. The majority of the Comelec commissioners, AES Watch said, did not even bother to explain how they arrived at the decision not to use the PCOS machines in next year's polls.

"Comelec chose to cast a blind eye on, and a deaf ear to, these officially and publicly confirmed vulnerabilities, defects and malfunctions of Smartmatic's PCOS machines and related equipment," AES Watch said.

AES Watch said a new bidding should be held because the PCOS machines failed to comply with the "minimum system capabilities" set by Republic Act No. 9369 or the Amended AES Act of 2007. Jerome Aning

TRANSGENDER contestant Jenna Talackova wears her evening gown in the Miss Universe Canada competition in Toronto.

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# Transgender beauty loses in Miss U tilt

From page A1

Jenna Talackova, 23, competed with 61 contestants and was among the final 12 contestants before failing to make the final five in the glitzy pageant. Kelly Rimes, 29, claimed the crown and advances to the international Miss Universe competition in December.

Talackova, who was one of two contestants named Miss Congeniality, was born a male and underwent a sex change four years ago.

A native from Vancouver, British Columbia, she was initially denied entry to Canada's pageant because she was not born female. But Donald Trump, who runs the Miss Universe Organization, subsequently overruled that decision last month.

The 1.8-meter-1-centimeter (5-foot-1) blonde beauty, who towered over her fellow contenders while competing in the bikini and formal wear contests, garnered most of the attention on Saturday night, swiftly losing food dreaming and howls each time she appeared on stage.

Talackova's involvement in the pageant has drawn wide national attention since being denied entry and hiring high-profile lawyer Gloria Allred to represent her in her battle to be reinstated.

The rules of the contest run by Trump's New York City-based organization say contestants must be "naturally born" females.

But shortly after Talackova announced a news conference on Los Angeles with Allred, the Miss Universe Organization said in a statement on its Canada website that Talackova may compete. "provided she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions."

Miss Universe organizers have not elaborated on the statement.

**'Still a winner'**

Allred said during Saturday's pageant that Talackova shouldn't feel too disappointed.

"She's still a winner as far as I'm concerned," Allred said during an interview. "She was an 'fantastic' civil rights victory and that I think is frankly more important than anything, any victory she would win, even representing Miss Canada."

The child of a Czech father and aboriginal Canadian mother, Talackova had said that she knew early on she was in the wrong body.

Her change of gender was hardly a secret before the event because she had competed in the 2012 Tiffany Miss International Queen Competition for transgendered and transsexual women in Pattaya, Thailand.

In a video interview for that pageant, she said she had lived her life as a female since age 4, began hormone therapy at 14 and changed her sex at 19.

The controversy surrounding her participation in the Miss Universe Canada pageant erupted this spring after a blogger recognized her from the transsexual beauty contest in Thailand and posted photos of it.

The Miss Universe publicity director, Brenda Mendoza, earlier said transgender competitors were now welcome at all of the pageants around the world.

But Mendoza added that it was being left to the individual franchises to determine if the recent policy change was carried out.

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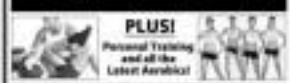

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# 'Knife fish' threatening native species in Laguna lake

THE PHILIPPINES fisheries chief on Sunday said he had ordered a study into a foreign species called "knife fish" that was posing a threat to the fishing industry in the country's largest lake.

The knife-shaped fish are reported to be multiplying in Laguna lake where they are displacing the native species, said Asis Perez, head of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

"It is unnecessary. It will compete with our existing natural fish. We have yet to get a full appreciation of the damage caused by this fish," Perez told AFP.

The fish, which can measure about 35 centimeters (14 inches) in length, was reported to be being bred locally as an ornamental species for aquariums but somehow got into the lake, which is located on the edge of Manila.

Fishermen's groups have complained that their catch of native fish is shrinking, with their income threatened because people were not accustomed to knife fish as a dish.

Perez said this appeared to be the latest case of an invasive alien species harming the local environment.

In previous years, the snakehead catfish, known locally as "janitor fish," was introduced to local waters by ornamental fish breeders, where it displaced native species and damaged nets.

"This could be like the janitor fish. They were both introduced in the Philippines as ornamental fish. They could have escaped or they could have been intentionally freed," said Perez.

The Philippines has only recently stepped up its resources over the introduction of alien species to native habitats, which can drive local species to extinction.

The country's numerous patrol ports have made it difficult to prevent the introduction of such species. In December, five juvenile arapaima arrived after they were caught with dozens of farmed, carnivorous piranha fish they had brought into the country.

AFP

BROTHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

# Vets reminded free, quality med care available to them

By Nancy Carvajal

QUALITY medical care is now available to our veterans, wherever they are, and for free.

The Aquino administration introduced the improved medical care service to our veterans on April 6, as he flagged-off, as part of its social priority program.

But most veterans may not know about it, as few are applying for medical assistance, said Dr. Nonie Legaspi, director of Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC).

"It's a blessing, Legaspi said in an interview. "After years of neglect, our veterans now have access to quality medical care wherever they are. This will enhance and encourage."

He said only 20,000 registered veterans applied for medical assistance, Legaspi said.

One reason could be distance, which the improved assistance program solves by making medical assistance available to veterans in their provinces.

Another reason could be the cost of health care. This too has been solved with the government paying for all the medical expenses of our veterans.

Legaspi said all eligible war veterans and their dependents were entitled to free medical assistance.

"They should not spend a single centavo, all the medicines including the so-called maintenance medicines, they could avail (them) of," Legaspi said.

The government, she said, will mount an information campaign to make all veterans aware of the new medical care program.

Under the program, Legaspi said, veterans who live in the provinces need not come to Manila or to VMMC to receive medical attention.

"Our veterans living in the provinces across the country can avail themselves of medical attention in their areas or nearest to their areas. And this will all be paid for by the government," Legaspi said.

She said records from hospitals across the country had been assembled to the program by VMMC. Veterans and their eligible dependents could go to these hospitals for treatment and medical benefits, she said.

Among the medical benefits that have been added to the veterans program are diabetes, heart ailment, prosthesis like angioplasty and heart bypass, Legaspi said.

VMMC, she said, now subsidizes cataract surgery, hernia treatments, hearing impairment, and supplies maintenance medicines.

Legaspi said veterans living in Manila could be reimbursed only for selected medical treatments, like dialysis, or in emergency cases.

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# PAF pilots still missing, planes grounded

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force (PAF) has grounded its seven remaining SF-260 aircraft after one of the trainer planes crashed off Bataan last Friday.

The PAF is working with the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard on a sea search for the two training pilots and the plane's wreckage.

"We, too, grounded the SF-260 for precautionary measures. (They are) grounded pending an investigation of the accident," said Air Force spokesperson Col. Miguel Okol.

He said investigators on the cause of the crash were all speculative at this time since the plane had no contact with the control tower after taking off from Sangley Point, Cavite, early Friday morning.

A little debris had been found off Cavite, Okol said, and there were "very few eyewitnessed reportsmen," accounts.

"It's all speculation. Some people are just guessing (about the crash). Maybe they just want to land in the papers or on TV," Okol said.

He said the search had been narrowed to an area one nautical mile by 1.2 nautical miles southwest of La Monja Island near Corregidor.

He said the Air Force had constructed the sections of a marked mapping ship that uses side sonar to map the suspected wreck site.

"It does (not) but been successful in terms of the actual wreck site now for a few percent of debris found last Friday," said Okol, who denied that remains had been recovered.

The SF-260 two-seater aircraft does not have ejection seats, according to the Air Force spokesperson.

This means that in case of emergency, the pilots have to get out of the aircraft manually.

"That's a possibility, that they manually bailed out," said Okol, who added that the pilots were wearing parachutes that could be opened at low altitude.

## Correction

ZUTHI HAN ZO HAUH, a photo caption on Page A15 of the Across the Nation section erroneously described the so-called Mandilla 5 as "a group of alleged communist rebels." Based on court records, the five people convicted of killing Senator Col. Rolando Abadilla had no ties to any communist group. The commander his squad, Met. Bonifacio Brigada, had claimed responsibility for Abadilla's killing, but the Quezon City Regional Trial Court ruled in the claim. The Supreme Court has affirmed the lower court's conviction of the Mandilla 5.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Inquirer Readers Desk, Inquirer, 700 Antonio Vista Ave. cor. Monseñor Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-57-00-98, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

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# DOJ clears judge in Quintos case

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has cleared a Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge of criminal charges for handing down the death sentence on former Mindoro Occidental Rep. Jose Villarosa in connection with the 1997 killing of two women in the lawmaker's political circle.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said Judge Theresa Baldoz was denied due process when then Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's ill-served the indictment of the judge on March 1, 2010, for "knowingly rendering an unjust judgment" against Villarosa.

Villarosa used Rules for Imposition of Article 204 of the Revised Penal Code after the Court of Appeals modified him to March 2000. Villarosa's wife, incumbent Mindoro Occidental Rep. Amelita Villarosa, was a staunch ally of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In revoking Devanadera's order, De Lima said the former lawmaker failed to present sufficient evidence to show that Baldoz showed "bad faith, malice or corrupt purpose" when she sentenced him of manslaughter.

The arguments of "good faith," On July 5, 2006, Baldoz found Villarosa and his co-accused guilty of the murder of the Quezon brothers who were gunned down in Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental, on Dec. 17, 2007.

But the appellate court reminded the judge's ruling and ordered Villarosa's immediate release from the Five Hilltop Prison. Marlon Ramos

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# GT Cosmetics opens plant in Bulacan

**GT COSMETICS Manufacturing — the first, if not the only, Cebuano cosmetics company that has carved a niche in the Philippine beauty industry — has enjoyed phenomenal success and reached another milestone in its 18 years of existence.**

GT Cosmetics, due to the increasing demand of its proudly-Philippine-made beauty products – both locally and internationally, is set to start its cosmetic-making operations in Marilao, Bulacan this month.

The ₱14-million Bulacan plant will be inaugurated on May 21 and will have a production capacity of 4,000 units of each product per day, similar to that of its sister plant in Ubaan, Cebu.

"We have to open a plant in Luzon to cater to the demands of our growing clientele in Luzon which now spans from northern and southern Luzon," said GT Cosmetics proprietress Engr. Leonora B. Sabuco, adding that Luzon accounts for two-thirds of GT Cosmetics' nationwide market.

Since it was founded in 1994, GT Cosmetics slowly captured its market initially by word of mouth and lately through social media – or "peer to peer" marketing – that tremendously made its products among the sought after brands in the country today.

The Bulacan plant is also expected to augment the production output in Cebu as GT Cosmetics is contemplating on expanding its foreign market following its first ever export shipment of over 1,000 beauty soap products to Federal late last year.

"We have been receiving requests of samples of our products, especially our bestsellers – the papaya and carrot soap variants – from Japan, Hong Kong and Dubai and we hope to commence a deal with these clients very soon," Sabuco revealed.

Some new foreign prospects got interested in GT Cosmetics after OFWs have been asking around for the proudly-Cebu-made products in their shops.

"I couldn't disagree as we really have quite a number of OFW patrons in those countries," said Sabuco.

GT Cosmetics likewise is hoping to expand its clientele in Europe with the help of its Holland buyer who promised to promote the products in the neighboring countries.

Sabuco, who is a chemical engineer, formulated the company's beauty bar soaps using organic and herbal extracts that help improve the skin. It comes in three variants namely the carrot, papaya, and bleaching organic soaps.

Its new line of cosmetic cream products — night cream, day cream, scrubbish, and toner — are also starting to gain popularity among new and avid users.

All GT Cosmetics products can be purchased in about 200 retail outlets such as Watsons Personal Care stores, Robinsons supermarkets, SM malls and supermarkets, Savemore supermarkets, Gaisano Metro chain of stores, as well as in other leading malls, department stores, supermarkets, and stores in all leading drugstores nationwide.

## ABS-CBN talent endorses GT Cosmetics

MILITY TALENTED Cebuano Phoebe Rose Fernandez is GT Cosmetics' Mandaluyong's endorser of its beauty products.

The young vibrant, hot complemented, and beauteous Phoebe Fernandez, is one of ABS-CBN's Central Visayas' talents, and an award-winning Binasuan-mode film actress.

This 24-year-old entertainment news reporter of ABS-CBN's 24 Oras Central Visayas graduated magna cum laude in 2008 from the University of San Carlos in Cebu and became a registered nurse the same year.

She is also a beauty consultant, boasting of a runner-up title in the 2008 Miss Mandaue pageant and winning the Miss Photogenic title in Miss Flanders International in 2011. Fernandez was named Best in Swim in the Cebu Beauty Short Film Festival for her role in "Beadie" and was nominated Best Actress in the Cinema One Film Festival for her portrayal as a psychic in "My Paranormal Romance."

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# On Navy Day, read-along held in 8 provinces

From page A1

114th anniversary of the Philippine Navy this month.

A separate read-along session was also held on Siargao Island, Surigao Del Norte, where at least 100 children listened to a story about taking care of the seas read by Climate Change Commission Vice Chair Mary Ann Lucille Sering.

The simultaneous storytelling sessions, using the Philippine Navy's video teleconferencing system (VTS), featured swimming sensation Cheryl Cosim, Alitaptap readers Nick Sadiquiano and Ruth Javelosa, and Iloilo Diane.

Children from eight other naval bases around the country joined the read-along sessions held at the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Boulevard in Manila and broadcast simultaneously to the eight bases with the help of the VTS.

This was the second time the Navy used the location but used the VTS technology for its inaugural read-along sessions nationwide.

"Since the first time was such a success, we decided to do it again that year," said the Navy chief, Vice Adm. Alexander Pama.

"We made some improvements and the children from the other naval bases were more receptive and participative. I think we were able to achieve the objective, which is to encourage children to read. We are really thankful to the learners for pushing the advocacy. I hope this can be a yearly thing," he added.

The VTS is usually used by the Navy for meetings with staff and commanders from other naval bases, reducing the need to travel, according to Pama.

The participating bases were the Naval Station Jose Rizal Apolinario in Panacan, Davao City; Naval Base Rafael Ramos in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu; Naval Station San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales; Naval Station Romulo M. Espaldon in Lower Calarian, Zamboanga City; Naval Station Alfredo M. Santos in Legazpi City; Naval Station Heracleo Alano in Tacloban City; Naval Station Ernesto Ogbinar in Puerto Princesa City; Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioque in Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union; and Naval Station Apolinario Mabini in Pueblo de Panay, Roxas City, Capiz.

Cosim, a television news personality, read "Si Caramel Lahar sa mga Bonggang Bonggera" (Caramel Lahar the Dreamer Pearer)," by Jhoe Villanueva and published by Lampara. It deals with the dangers of dynamite fishing.

"I was amazed at the technology. It was interesting to see children from different parts of the country react to the story telling," Cosim said.

## Importance of reading

A recent recipient of the network's "Bayanihan" Award, Cosim also works with the Save-Gaming medical missions foundation. Her program "Alagang Kapuso" reported, in during typhoons and other emergencies. Her shows are on TV5.

A child rights advocate, Cosim said she always made time for programs like the read-along, "which help children in so many ways."

"The read-along is engaging and it keeps children entertained. More than anything, it is also an avenue to help children realize the importance of education. I don't happy that I am able to contribute to the cause of the learners and the Navy," she said.

Oscar, of the naval management and fa- in Manila in Barangay Bagumbayan, "by Lina B. Dan de Rivera, a story about a whale which fell in love with a ship.

Rodriguez and Jovelce did a random reading of Adarna's "Si Pilandok sa Palo ng Pinilhan," by Victoria Abcionero, a story about how the tiny mouse-deer Pilandok saved the deer from a trap.

Through the VTS, the readers interacted with the kids, who were either children or dependents of Navy personnel, during the question and answer session that followed each reading.

In Cebu, 1921 Molly Mendoza learned with pride that her daughter, Dorothy Anne, correctly answered a question. "This is a good sign, it means Dorothy Anne is paying attention and that she likes to read," Mendoza said.

## With street children

In Tambo ngan, Bear Adm. Armando Gaminde, commander of Naval Forces Western Mindanao, said the children were very attentive during the session. "When the book was flashed on screen, they read every word on it," he said.

Gaminde said read-along made reading books fun and rewarding for the children.

In Iloilo City, children of soldiers sit side by side with those from Padre Pio's Home for Children, a Catholic institution for orphaned and abandoned children.

In Palawan, John Rafael Arding, 12, a son of an enlisted personnel, said it was "refreshing" to be one of the session. "It's not every day one of here to take care of another nation and how to avoid its destruction," he said.

In Legazpi City, Cosim Abraham Dilao, commander of Naval Forces Southern Luzon, and his staff led by Lt. Jacenir Nieva, added a repertoire of songs and dances to the stories.

## Thankful Lola

Henry Simpao, 10, of Cavite said he enjoyed most the story of Pilandok and the pawikan.

"It teaches people to take care of animals, especially [the] endangered species," he said.

He said the story reminded him of a TV report about preserving endangered animals. "I also remembered my dog Shorter and our pet fish at home."

In Manila, 13-year-old Paula Ghia Lim said she felt "very thankful" to be in the session. Lim, one of the "drama children" selected by social welfare officials to be reading.

About 35 children of enlisted men trooped to San Antonio in Zambales to join the storytime.

In La Union, 8-year-old Ld Jacena sat enthralled as she listened to the stories of sea animals and the environment. Children were gathered at Poro Point in San Fernando City, she is a child of a Navy personnel.

"Storytelling and reading should really be instilled in children as they should not get trampled on by technology," said Girl Scout Jolo Bonga, president of the Naval Forces Western Leaguers. Scouts from Zamboanger gamen and social networking sites that have become popular among children.

Col. Elizabeth A. Vergara, president of Philippine Navy Officers Wives Association, said the programs aimed to stress the importance of reading and reach out to children in rural. "Reading is very important in the children's learning process," she said. With reports from Jeheiel Gandalo and Marielle Medina, Inquirer Research; Edison Andres, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlo Vivas, Inquirer Northern Luzon; John Kliph and Jonelle Batilla, Inquirer Mindanao; and Maricor Ibba, intern


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# Morato: I broke no laws with my TV program

By Jerry E. Esplanada

POSSE: Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Chair Manuel Morato is disputing a Commission on Elections (Comelec) order for his presentee for breach of election laws in 2010, stressing that "there is no doubt this dividing press freedom and the ban on electioneering."

In an e-mail to the Inquirer yesterday Morato asked, "Is there a Supreme Court doctrine on this?"

"Why was I not reprimanded during the 2010 campaign period if they thought I was violating the law? What was Minister James Jimenez of Comelec who was in charge of monitoring campaign violations? Where was the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, which is also tasked with monitoring all TV programs for poll-related violations?" he said.

Morato, also a former chair of the DPWH, said, "If persons there were really seeing really wrong, because most of the time I enabled jokes and made the public laugh."

He explained: "In some viewers, Did 30 was both a public service and comedy show. There was no malice. We poked fun at candidates who were lying or doing foolishness. Is this wrong? If they didn't want to be animated, they should have behaved properly."

The Comelec said Friday it had found probable cause against Morato for violation of election laws when he used "Did 30" (an unscrambled television MBO-4 and IBC-13) in 2010 to endorse the candidacies of then Department Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and actor Edu Manzano for president and vice president, respectively.

In a full-commission order, the Comelec directed its law department to file criminal charges against Morato.

The Comelec charged Morato with violating Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code when as a member of the PCSO board, he authorized the release of public funds to air his TV program on May 3 and 5, 2010, and which he used to support the candidacies of Teodoro and Manzano, as well campaign against opposition senatorial candidates Jacinto Ligot, Panfilo Lacson and Vicente Sotto III, Pastor Saludares and Elias Ibrahim-Bantugan.

As Did 30 relates, the Comelec said, Morato "played a very important role during the May 2010 elections. His comments could change the political setup and influence the outcome of the elections. He cant simply ignore the impact of his comments on the elections during the May 2010 elections."

The Comelec said Morato had the "responsibility to safeguard public funds and not allow his program to be used for partisan political activity."

The Omnibus Election Code prohibits the use of public funds, equipment and facilities owned or controlled by the government for an election campaign.

Morato, explained that he was only one of five directors of the PCSO during the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "As a director, I had no power of the purse," he said.

"I was only a director and I could not do that. That power belonged to higher authority so much so that whenever a patient would come to me for help, I always sought approval from the PCSO chair or general manager who was always sympathetic to the poor," he said. With a report from Nikko Dizon

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

# Study at home

TO EASE classroom overcrowding and teacher shortage, the Quezon City school division is placing some 10,000 students from six high schools on homeschooling. This would be the biggest number to be covered in a single area since the Department of Education started this alternative mode of teaching.

One of the schools to offer homeschooling is Bernardo Hills National High School (BHNHS), where overcrowded rooms have been a perennial problem. School officials said they're aiming for a "more bearable" classroom-to-student ratio by sending more 3,000 students to home study. The ideal ratio in one classroom for every 45 students. Since BHNHS' projected number of students is 13,450 this school year, it is going to accommodate 10,000 while "farming out" the 3,450 through homeschooling, officials said.

Under the program, students can take their lessons at home following modules patterned after the regular curriculum and meet with their teachers only on Saturdays. They graduate with a high school diploma, just like any regular student.

The DepEd was supposed to have started the program in 2002, but there were years when it was not implemented on a large scale. It had been practiced in Quezon City for three years, and city school division officials said the program has worked. "Our students do well," an official said. "They graduate, go to college and even go abroad." One wonders how everything about the Quezon City program could be so fully changing when it has only been running for three years. But since Quezon City is now the biggest city division in the country, bigger than Manila, the capital, expect other divisions to follow.

Homeschooling is a customized or do-it-yourself educational experience, where the parents take full charge of their children's education at home. It operates on the most obvious of premises: parents are their children's first and best teachers, and the family is the first and foremost learning environment, the school away from school. The right of the parents to their children's education is constitutionally enshrined. The 1987 Constitution says that: "the right of parents to rear their children" is a "natural right." Since home study is parent-centered, parents decide whether they will enroll their kids in an accredited organization, a home-school provider, or do it independently. The DepEd exercises supervisory role.

In the United States, the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) in a 2011 study puts the number of homeschooled population at 2.04 million. Its earlier 2009 study showed homeschoolers performing academically higher than the norm in standardized tests. "The home-school national average ranged from the 64th percentile for Language, Math and Social Studies to the 84th percentile in reading," the report said.

But the report does not address persistent fears that homeschooled children may lack the social skills that are fostered in formal education. It merely declares that homeschoolers "have interacted maturely with peers and adults." Homeschooling has grown as a practice among upper middle-class families that tend to be so fearful of the alleged garbage their children receive in formal education. It has led to some sort of social supremacism, catapulted precisely by the fear of normal social interaction that a regular school fosters. In fact, some parents resort to homeschooling because they find their children unwilling to be strained away from them for a day in school or to play with others. Genuinely, homeschooling may be viewed as merely institutionalizing the social anxiety attacks of those kids. It's an agent of social ancestor.

But what really goes against homeschooling in the Philippine setting is that it's supervised and regulated by the DepEd, whose historically poor handling of basic education hardly inspires hope. All of the available studies about the success of homeschooling in the United States pit the performance of homeschoolers against public school students. The Sheri's 2009 study, for example, declared, that: "homeschoolers are still achieving well beyond their public school counterparts." Regarding calls for more state regulation on homeschooling, the study concluded that the system was doing fine without more government intervention. "That's a good reason for state governments to redirect scarce funds from regulating homeschooling to where the money is actually needed," the study said. In short, homeschooling is good, but broader reforms are needed to solve the ills plaguing Philippine basic education.

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# How CJ can explain his immense wealth

As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

IS THERE really an Ignacio or Ernesto (ESC) lobby in Iloilo? Chief Justice Renato Corona's counsel told by the Senate impeachment court? Malacañang doesn't believe so, but I think it is very likely. The Palace said "it wouldn't be surprised" if some people affiliated with the ESC would lobby for Corona, but it doubted that the lobbying would be instigated or have the approval of ESC's leadership.

The evidence so far indicates that there is indeed was lobbying by the ESC, as host by some of its members. Some senators confirmed that a few influential members of the religious sect have called on them on a dinner and lobbied for the acquittal of Corona. Others said there were similar feelers to them but they did not accept the invitation to dinner.

Curiously, there is no denial from the ESC itself, only silence, if there is no such lobby, wouldn't the ESC leadership issue a vehement denial? So why is there only silence from the ESC?

Some observers say that Corona would use every help and every trick to have himself acquitted. And the ESC, because of its reported close influence, would be a very strong help. I am not saying that he actually asked for ESC's help, but it is very likely that some members sympathetic to Corona would, on their own, try to help.

Names of some senators have been mentioned as lobbying for the acquittal. Last week Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile refused to be interviewed on the subject and both denied he had been approached. Other senators also said they had not been lobbied, but how much value can we put on the denials of politicians?

Anyway, how much effect would an ESC lobby have on the senator-judges? Senators who will be running for reelection in 2013 would surely be affected. After all, ESC's block voting would mean the difference between winning or losing in the polls.

Reports say that the candidacies of Vice President Jejomar Binay's UNA have been targeted by the lobbyists. This is not surprising. There is an apparent link among the propagandists of Binay and Corona. The same mouthpieces are working for both Binay and Corona: A break-but Senate to Quezon City to blatantly protect Corona and pro-Binay Only because of Corona's defense teams are being invited to the shows, although a media lawyer is invariably present to give members of the press a balanced view of any issue. Prosecution lawyers are seldom invited. It is left to members of media to provide a balance between the prosecution and the defense on the issues.

How many defense lawyers are there in the DNA senatorial tickets? So far, only Senators Enka Pimentel and Gringo Honasan. So we will know whether or not there was indeed such an ESC lobby until four offensives it was by how Enka's and Gringo would vote.

On the other hand, how can there be a case for Corona's acquittal when the evidence against him is so damning, especially the testimony of Prosecutor Cynthia Carpo-Morales? The defense was extremely unable Bautista's by Morales' testimony that Corona had a number of dollar bank accounts. It didn't know that the Philhealthman had the numbers on it. Television footage showed the shocked faces of the defense lawyers. Chief defense counsel Serafin Cuevas even caught with his mouth agape in shock for several minutes. The usually voluble Cuevas didn't know what to say.

Obviously, Corona didn't tell the truth even in his sworn answers. He didn't tell them he had those dollar accounts. If he did, they could not have been prepared. Remember, the Dollarization is the defense's own witness. It was the defense who asked the impeachment court to subpoena her to testify as a hostile witness for the defense. It had her summoned because it thought she had nothing on Corona. It was confident that the Senate Court's summoning order could not allow the opening of the dollar bank accounts. It turned out that the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) had already done its job, opened the bank accounts, and given a copy of its report to the Ombudsman.

As Rodolfo Corona had at least 82 dollar bank accounts with total deposits of $12 million, investigators of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit (COA) reported that Corona's wealth totaled P370 million! Wow!

The defense says that Corona could not have 82 dollar bank accounts but perhaps only four.

Corona is not accused of having many dollar accounts. He is accused of not declaring under oath all his assets in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) as mandated by law, and he has very clearly not declared all of his dollar assets. He failed to declare only $41, that is already a violation of the law.

Corona will surely concentrate on where and how he acquired his fabulous wealth. How he will explain them is anybody's guess. On account of the great weight of evidence against him, here are only a few tricks that Corona can pull to explain them:

1. He can use the "Mike Arroyo trick", that the dollar accounts are not really his but that of his brother Gloria in order for safekeeping.

2. That he was in the know.

3. That he was in the dark.

4. That he let on the pretense to his housemates.

5. That he found a bagful of money in a taxicab. He wanted to return the money to its owner, but he could not find him. So he kept the money in his house. He deposited the money in several banks. They did he deposit them in so many accounts is so many banks? With so many bank robberies in the Philippines, he was afraid that if he kept the money in one bank, that bank might be robbed, or closed by the Bangko Sentral, and all the money would be gone. Kaseem names are eight banks. With the money distributed in many banks, there would be some left even if some of the banks were robbed or failed.

# KO

There's the Rub

*Conrado de Quiros*

IN JANUARY, it wasn't entirely unsolicited. Manny Pacquiao was asked the question by a reporter probably with a view to provoking a controversial statement from him—boy, did he get one—and Pacquiao took the bait. It's irrelevant again on being crazy or circumspect in answering provocative questions from reporters, whether local or foreign.

It has happened to people who do not open their mouths as unthinkingly as Pacquiao. Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, was asked by a reporter if the approval of Yusuf's lawsuit or death sentence on Salman Rushdie for writing "The Satanic Verses," and Yusuf haplessly affirmed that though Islam loves peace, it supported an execution and Yusuf was depicted to be a supporter of the fatwa. It took him more than a decade, much denunciation of the interpretation, and a more categorical condemnation of the fatwa to dispel the suggestion.

Did Yusuf deserve really grave flak that part of the Bible that said men who lie with other men should be put to death? I don't know, though that is really irrelevant to the superior pondering the recorded exchange. I myself suspect he did. Respondent is the part of the world we see operating gravely to mistake having queens. The United States is a religious country, lawyers smiling in the wings to pounce on mistakes like that. And Pacquiao himself has been quoting fiery verses from the Bible of late after he lost very ridiculous arguments that gay marriage is a violation of bodies and homicide in the eyes of his self.

But whether he did or not, that was really stupid expressing his disapproval of Barack Obama's gay marriage policy on religious grounds. How hard should it have been to say, "I still not comment on it. I have my beliefs, you have yours. I respect your beliefs, respect mine," but that is expecting lessons from someone who has never exhibited it outside the ring. You deserve your knocks and from your head in person before a fight, the world will be impressed and call you devout. You drop Bible verses and have to your desire to make product about your devoutness, the better to make up for less than devout conduct for much of your waking hours, the world will be pissed off and call you a liar.

Imagine if a Muslim imam were to go to America and have them make remarks about the shortcomings of their ways, specifically respond to them treating their women as equals. What in the eyes of Allah, as observed in the Koran, women are there to serve men for the greater glory of heaven. Or when in the eyes of the ummah, as shown by traditional practice, men may have many wives but women must show only absolute fidelity to their husbands on pain of stoning. How do you think he will be received? Well, look at Pacquiao—whom a famous mall in Hollywood has banned from its premises and who stands to lose his commercial endorsements, chief of them Nike—and swap Jews for object lessons. It's painful one, in respecting other cultures.

Pacquiao himself says he has nothing against gays, he has a cousin who is one, but that his religious beliefs compel him to not approve gay marriage. Fine, but at the very least you don't go around proscribing that for others, particularly citizens of a different culture. But far more than that, that doesn't make things better, that makes things worse. It's outrightly patronizing. It's like saying, "I have nothing against women, it's just that my only given beliefs compel me to not accept them as equals. So let given equal rights, equal freedoms, equal opportunities, under the law."

It's not likely that we ourselves are going to have gay marriage in the country in the next, or probably even far, future. Hell, we can't even have divorce, the only country left in the world that doesn't have it. It has made for a great deal of hypocrisy. The Church frowns on divorce only to turn a blind eye on the practice of annulment, keeping which it has sponsored. And we do not let the Church dictate to us on matters of faith. Pacquiao rules regard gays as deviants, if not perverts, but who lap up the movies, television, etc, and show his progeny that product. Oh, yes, they're the heart of the entertainment industry. Take them out and ABS-CBN, GMA-7, Channel 5 and the entertainment section of newspapers would collapse.

But that's another story. The point is respect for other cultures and other beliefs. You do not go abroad deciding to inflict your own on unwilling people, whether subject or not, whether persuaded or not. That is a fight you must win. It's an insult many that in the end, Pacquiao fought his greatest fight not against Juan Manuel Marquez, whom he can't seem to find a way to beat, or David de la Hoya, whom he stopped dodging him—and who just as ironically is fighting the fight of his life against his own demons in a jail cell—but against himself and his ego.

No, Pacquiao will never be the greatest, I already said that a couple of years ago at the height of his fame. Several boxing pundits were saying at the time he might even surpass Muhammad Ali. Among already moved up several weight divisions, having won against much bigger opponents, having broken records. I said he might be the greatest boxer that ever lived but he would never surpass Ali. Ali fought a fight against the most awesome opponents of all, an opponent that had never yet fallen, an opponent that had crushed challengers along the way. That opponent wasn't Sonny Liston or George Foreman or Joe Frazier. That opponent was government. That opponent was bigotry. That opponent was oppression. And he had brought it down. While Pacquiao had only pranced up a false pendulum, while Pacquiao had only helped to reclaim oppression, while Pacquiao had only endured the ignorance of boxers.

And now this. The guy person who can say hate statements is up on his body.

If Pacquiao we Ali's rig hooking.

# Inadmissible evidence?

**SOUNDING BOARD**

*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

DURING ONE of the impeachment sessions last week, Senator Judge Miriam Defensor Santiago raised the issue of the legality of how Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales obtained records of the alleged bank accounts of Chief Justice Renato Corona. Specifically Santiago focused on how the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) obtained and released the evidence to the Ombudsman.

This is a very crucial question because, if the evidence was obtained in a manner contrary to law, whatever evidence was found would be inadmissible in any proceeding, not only impeachment but also any other proceeding for the prosecution. Basic legal common sense!

To answer that question the Senate will have to consider mainly three questions. (1) Who may investigate the Chief Justice? (2) What investigative power does the Ombudsman have? (3) What is the scope of the power of the AMLC to look into bank accounts and release what has been found?

The inquiry into these questions might begin with Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution, which says: "The Supreme Court shall have administrative supervision over all courts and the personnel thereof." The Supreme Court has been granted exclusive power over courts. Thus the Court has said that the Ombudsman may not investigate any judge or court personnel "in the absence of an administrative charge for the same acts before the Supreme Court."

However, decisions of the Court on this power over the Constitution have involved only low-level court judges or personnel, no one of whom was impeachable. The Court has no power to investigate impeachable officers in connection with the impeachment process. Jurisdiction over such investigation lies elsewhere.

Whether the Court investigates the Chief Justice in matters involving money and bank deposits? This brings us to the question of the scope of the power of investigation of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman gets his power first of all from Article XI, Section 13(1) of the Constitution: The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the power to "investigate on its own, or on complaint of any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient." By Section 13(2), the Ombudsman may request any government agency for assistance. These are reproduced in Section 15 of the Ombudsman Act of 1989.

Next, Republic Act No. 1405, also invoked in the Corona case as bank accounts, we have to look into more specific laws, namely, the Foreign Currency Law and the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA).

The earlier Bank Secrecy Law said: "All deposits of whatever nature with banks or banking institutions in this . . . are hereby considered as of an absolutely confidential nature and may not be examined, inquired or looked into by any person, government official, bureau or office, except upon written permission of the depositor, or in cases of impeachment. . . ."

The Bank Foreign Currency Law, however, is more strict. It says "All foreign currency deposits authorized under this Act, as amended by PD No. 1035, as well as foreign currency deposits authorized under PD No. 1034, are hereby declared and considered as of an absolutely confidential nature and, except upon the written permission of the depositor, in no manner shall foreign currency deposits be examined, inquired or looked into by any person, government official, bureau or office, except upon written permission of the depositor, or in cases of impeachment. . . ."

To get back to the issue raised by Senator Santiago, the Senate will have to decide whether the evidence presented by the Ombudsman was obtained following both the substantive and procedural requirements of the Foreign Currency Law and the law. Or should the Senate disregard the issue of legality or illegality of the manner in which the evidence was obtained?

# The Senate honors Cornelio Balmaceda

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

ICORE 45 years after Manila became home to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Senate adopted a resolution sponsored by Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, recognizing the role of Cornelio Balmaceda, secretary of commerce and industry, in the establishment of the ADB headquarters in the Philippines.

In simple ceremonies held at the Senate session hall, Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada presided over the Senate Peace Tactic presented to the members of the Balmaceda family—Magnolia B. Castro, Gloria B. Cuenco and Rosemarie B. Linares, accompanied by spouses.

Balmaceda, who died on Aug. 31, 1987, was instrumental in bringing the ADB to Manila. He was also instrumental in establishing the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA) and the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC).

Drilon's resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Senate, cited Balmaceda's "outstanding efforts and unparalleled diplomatic prowess" in the establishment of the ADB headquarters in the Philippines.

"WHEREAS, viewed with the honor of hosting the ADB on their early years, the Filipino Department took full advantage of former Secretary Balmaceda for his outstanding efforts and unparalleled diplomatic poise so that time and an even more profound debt for his services afterwards, including, but not limited to, his functions as Special Adviser to the President on ADB affairs, Chairman of the 14-Nation Committee on Preparatory Arrangements for the establishment of the ADB and the Philippines' first Alternate Director of ADB. Now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to recognize former Commerce and Industry Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, for his selfless and able representation of the Philippines in several important capacities leading to the establishment of the Asian Development Bank as well as his invaluable role in the location of the ADB headquarters in the Philippines."

* * *

Still on the subject of ADB headquarters, last week, I received a letter from an old friend, Rodolfo Romero. He pointed out that Manila was not the first choice to be seized with any considerable of the revolutionaries surrounding the birth of the Asian Development Bank and the choice of Manila as the location of the bank's headquarters.

"The first is that the final candidates for the location of the regional financial institution's headquarters were not Manila and Tokyo, but Manila and Teheran—not Manila and Teheran. . . Thanks to the effective, all-out campaign of then-outgoing President Diosdado Macapagal. . . Manila narrowly edged out Teheran in the final vote. Thus it was Teheran, not Tokyo, that Manila triumphed over.

"The same review of the contemporary press reports and commentaries will also yield the information that Tokyo was not in the running for the location of ADB headquarters."

It is always a pleasure to hear from friends and I wish to thank Joel for his report on this issue.

Allow me to address the points he raised by a brief review of the pattern in the three votes that took place during the meetings held to decide ADB's location.

There were 14 countries in the voting.

First ballot: Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore had one vote each. The Philippines had three votes (Philippines, China and Vietnam). Iran had four votes (Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Ceylon). Japan, the leading contender, had five votes. South Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand, India, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and Burma.

From these initial results, one could see that Japan was definitely entrenched in the site for ADB headquarters.

Prior to the second ballot, Iran's chief delegate to ADB-to-be suggested to Indonesia, the Philippines' head delegate, that since Iran and Indonesia were Muslim countries, the second ballot would be supported by the other in the third. With this agreement, Balmaceda, assured by most of the incoming Asian administration (Ferdinand Marcos had just won the presidential elections and was the president-elect), went to work on three countries: Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Each of the three votes were crucial.

Thailand was the first to move in the Philippine side. Balmaceda now went to see the chief delegate of Singapore who was staying at the Filipinas Hotel.

Jess Bautamante, a reporter with the *Philippine Herald*, wrote an interesting and amusing article on this meeting. It was titled, "Here's the Tea: Who's Who in Singapore."

"Ooooh, Lee!

"The following morning at 8 a.m., November 28, Balmaceda went to see the head delegate of Singapore who was then booked at the Filipinas Hotel. The secretary had to cool his heels at the hotel's dining room for 45 minutes before the official finally went down that he was ready to see him. On the way up, the secretary accompanied by Manuel Collantes, knocked on the wrong door. It was that of the Thailand delegate.

"Afterwards, they proceeded to the hotel's coffee shop where at least 113 the Singapore chief delegate was waiting for them."

The secretary's line of argument was that since the first ballot showed that Singapore had only one vote, he then asked for support of the Philippine bid. After some discussion, the Singapore delegate said, "I'll give my vote but don't tell Malaysia."

Surmounting "hers" worked on the Malaysian chief delegate in the Manila Hotel. On those days, Filipinos and Singaporeans to be lost hosts in Manila.—POPI The delegate said that he would give the Philippine request serious thought. The following Wednesday, he sent word that he would help the Philippines."

As a result of Balmaceda's personal, face-to-face diplomacy, in the second ballot had the following results: Philippines—six (Philippines, China, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore); Iran continued to have the same four votes, and Japan kept its eight votes.

At the third balloting, the Philippines, bolstered by the first bloc of votes as provided for in the earlier agreement, got nine votes (Philippines, China, South Vietnam, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Malaysia, and Thailand.) Japan continued to hold onto its eight votes. Surprisingly, Singapore abstained. The final candidates were the Philippines and Japan, with the Philippines winning by a margin of one vote: 8 to 7.

To my mind, the key maneuver that led to the eventual victory of the Philippines over Japan was the agreement between Iran and the Philippines to support each other after the second balloting. But Singapore voted for Japan in the third and final balloting, a deadlock could have resulted with the Philippines and Japan holding nine votes each. Anything could have happened after that.

* * *

One last word.

In a feature article on Cornelio Balmaceda, "The Touch of Progress He Gained," columnist Ricardo Bilday wrote in the Manila Chronicle on Sept. 13, 1986: The younger generation may not know that one of the best men in this post, who set a good example for public officials who gave public service the progress badly needing. . . A prominent of the old school, he felt it a constant reminder that few men have come to authorized the highest office.

# The paradox of China's reform

**WORLD VIEW**

*Jamie F. Metzl*

NEW YORK—The compelling dramas of former Chongqing Communist Party chief Bo Xilai's ouster amid allegations of corruption and murder, and of blind Chinese human rights advocate Chen Guangcheng's dash to safety in the US Embassy in Beijing, are more than just fascinating narratives of triviality and courage. Taken China can provide the thousands of examples of how to unleash and empower people—like these. Over two decades—who have been left behind or harmed by rapid growth, its economy will increasingly suffer.

Like the Asian Tiger economies before it, China has excelled in the first phase of capitalist economic growth, the rapid mobilization and concentration of capital, low-cost labor, intellectual property theft, and centralized planning. And, like many of those, China is now facing a "middle-income trap." As wages rise, its low-cost manufacturing is losing global competitiveness while government policies, including continued reliance on investment-driven growth, jeopardize the selling the type of private-sector innovation that China needs most to generate products and services with higher added value.

China's leaders understand this, which is why the government's 12th Five-Year Plan calls for a "gradual transition" to a consumer economy. But the same government think tank worked with the World Bank to produce the "China 2030" report, which outlines the structural reforms needed to strengthen the foundations of the country's market-based economy and create solutions of new innovation.

But it's not clear that China's leaders have the will. In fact, the greatest threat to that goal is the insurance influence and institutionalized corruption of the country's entrenched elites. For years, senior Chinese officials and their families have received a cut of enormous major investments throughout China. They and their families have become multimillionaires by exploiting the close association of business and politics, as well as their strong links with China's state-owned enterprises.

The resulting rise in inequality has been exacerbated by China's capital controls and mandated low interest rates on savings. For lack of other options, most people put their money in banks which then lend to more privileged people to build state-owned enterprises or much higher-yielding investments in real estate.

This system worked to drive overall economic growth and financial rewards in the first phase of China's post-reform growth, but the increase of ordinary Chinese have stagnated over the past decade. Some investments have been good, but capital has been misallocated, and major negative environmental and social side effects have emerged. Now, those who have benefited most from the current system are blocking badly needed reforms.

For example, years of unbalanced investment have led China to overbuild precisely the industrial real estate, which should cause prices to fall dramatically. But, although the government is trying to take some of the air out of the market, the authorities cannot easily take the more aggressive action that is required, because Chinese officials and other elites continue to invest their money in real estate, which also compensates much of the collateral of state-connected banks. Similarly, although state-owned enterprises are making less productive use of China's economy rebalancing, those would require taking on China's most powerful financial and government bodies.

This is why the Chinese government's dance around the Bo scandal has been so complicated. Its may have lost an internal political struggle, and may have created a line after the murder of Neville Isambramore Heil Heywood, for which Bo's wife is under arrest, but vilifying him as a double-edged sword for the government. On one hand, the authorities need to pursue him aggressively to justify the purge of someone who was so recently lauded. On the other hand, many of the accusations against Bo could be leveled at an enormously large number of senior officials across China who, like him, have amassed multimillion-dollar family fortunes.

In highlighting Bo's misdeeds, the Party is trying to demonstrate that it takes on and should be responsible for addressing official corruption. But given that the Party is also heavily benefited as much from the current system are unlikely to clean it up, the only other way to generate reform would be to empower the people getting the short end of the stick—people like Chen and those he has helped.

The crackdown on Chen for representing refugees who have been abused by the authorities follows the same pattern as the silencing of parents who protested shoddy school construction after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, and of opponents of the environmentally damaging Three Gorges Dam project. If China's leaders continue to suppress the environmentalists, lawyers, activists and journalists who are the only ones trying to expose what remains of the law for the benefit of our people's human rights, as an antidote to social order where equality is lived and does not merely exist as a concept in legalese.

Indeed, after losing his to the fridge, Secretary Ford's parents had his case, winning it with a resounding decision from the people—lawyer Ford's sister Ursula, a genuine peoples' lawyer, will always live in the hearts of his colleagues and the people he has served as well. We will miss you in the battlefield but we shall carry on."

Ursula Ford was also present at the parade for the past 54 years. Tristram Ford was a genuine peoples' lawyer, a true patriot, considered one of the people.

# 'Tserman' Fred Gapuz

**KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO**

*Carlos Isagani T. Zarate*

Mindanao-Beyond-Mindanao:

After the fall of Ferdinand Marcos, while many of his colleagues joined governments or drifted to more lucrative corporate law practice, he assists and his public interest lawyering, defending the rights of arrested strikers, the I.mmol. political prisoners, peasants and workers. All through he supported the then-underground Kilusang Bayan ng Mamamayan, he refused to seek compensation for himself.

In July 2005, when the Arroyo administration sponsored state of impunity was at striking havoc across the country, Gapuz helped re-organize the Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM), where he served as its founding chair until his death last May 12. In September 2007, he also helped in established the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), where he was elected its founding president and later president emeritus.

In its tribute, the NUPL paid the "highest honors and tribute to Our Dear Atty. Frederico Gapuz," recalling that "this life was dedicated not only to providing legal services to the marginalized and oppressed sectors of society, but more importantly, provided enough and inspiration to legal practitioners and advocates who aspire to change society for the better. It is believed that in lawyering, we must not always limit ourselves in the confines of the courts and our law offices, but we must be a vibrant part of the peoples' movement-sounds.

"Despite his failing health, for over a very inspiring welcome speech to the 2008 Conference of Lawyers in Asia-Pacific (Colap) 9 and lived up everybody to do more for the peoples' cause. He will be moving as it was inspiring. Last May 17, from late afternoon until midnight, members of various groups came to pay their respects at Mindanao's—arranged at the Philippine Independent Church Cathedral in Cagayan de Oro City to pay their last respects and listen to eulogies given by the late Frederico Moreno Gapuz, the indefatigable "dean" of public interest lawyering in Mindanao.

"It's the first time that I have seen such over-whelming and highest respect accorded to a person like him," commented lawyer Beverly Musni, a longtime colleague in the human rights movements. Indeed, from the eulogies delivered during the nearly 8-hour "Paraigal," one can truly point to integrity and upright living as the hallmark of the man fondly called "tserman," "tatay" and "mamang" by the many who knew him in the past 54 years as a "peoples' lawyer."

The tributes came from students too young to be his grandchildren, fellow lawyers, schoolmates and colleagues in the struggle for human rights, leaders of various faiths, politicians, media, and fellow representatives who fought with him in several battles and struggles.

Born as a young man, Tserman Fred was a staunch nationalist. He opposed unequal laws and treaties that violated the sovereignty of the country and the Mutual Defense Treaty that allowed the presence of US military bases in the Philippines.

He was tortured by his military captors and jailed seven times during the Marcos dictatorship. Many of his colleagues and clients could be also in the line of injustice and oppression, he joined and led civil rights advocacy groups, like the Movement for Civil Liberties, the Protestant Lawyers League of the Philippines (PLLP), the First Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and the Concerned Lawyers for Nationalism and Democracy (Clond). He also served as a member of the executive committee of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) Mindanao.

Gapuz's life and legacy of dedication to the cause of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized will continue to inspire many lawyers and advocates who aspire to change society for the better. He believed that in lawyering, we must not always limit ourselves in the confines of the courts and our law offices, but we must be a vibrant part of the peoples' movement-sounds.

"Despite his failing health, for over a very inspiring welcome speech to the 2008 Conference of Lawyers in Asia-Pacific (Colap) 9 and lived up everybody to do more for the peoples' cause. He will

*Jamie F. Metzl served on the National Security Council in the Clinton administration. He is co-chair of the Institute for a Secure America and a former executive vice president of Asia Society*

# Not the czar's granddaughter

LETTERS

THE MAY 14 article written by Cary Bonasso claiming that her grandmother may have been the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov, the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II, the last sovereign of Imperial Russia, was quite fascinating.

It reads like a mystery thriller that caught until our only my attention but also those of countless of other business readers. In a matter of fact, this is not the first time ever. It's sure, the last time that it will be claimed that Anastasia somehow survived the massacre of her entire family.

The most prominent proponent was Nadia Anderson who, after a 30-year legal court battle, lobbied to convince the German courts into believing that she was the Grand Duchess Anastasia. Her quest for recognition was made into a movie, with Ingrid Bergman playing the title role. Finally in 1994, long after Anna Anderson's death, it was shown through DNA testing that she was not related to either Tsar Nicholas II or his wife Alexandra.

So is Bonasso's grandmother Anastasia, the youngest daughter of the last Russian emperor?

Some 1 while ago were that understandably, history was a way of destroying the documents, and focused on DNA testing. Anastasia was missing when last seen in the early morning of July 17, 1918.

According to Wikipedia, Anastasia's "possible survival has been conclusively disproven. In January 2008, Russian scientists announced that the skeletal remains of a young boy and a young woman found near Ekaterinburg in August 2007, were most likely those of the 13-year-old Tsarevich Alexei and one of the four Russian grand duchesses. Tsarina Alexandra and Princess Maria Nikolaevna, respectively, who were murdered with the rest of the Romanov family on July 17, 1918. Scientists matched the DNA samples from the remains to DNA samples from living descendants of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, who is a great-grandson of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom and a second cousin of Nicholas II, the last sovereign of Imperial Russia.

—ANTONIO C. REYES JR.,
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre,
Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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## Walking away from boxing with Manolo

WITH MANOLO R. Pilgo I have walked away from boxing. AlsGerbasio mainly out of modified murder. ("What I walked away from pro boxing," Inquirer, 5/11/21)

My current remark in the Roman Coliseum, urging gladiators to kill one another.—"He who not about to die, salute you!"—not to in medieval times or being the call of the artificial bullfight mentality.

During Manny Pacquiao's last fight, a friend had her birthday party at Emirate Park, decorating ballroom dining in a well-attended setting. Else, I would have been at home values, before, she adds would knock me out cement floor. Money would be there.

Manny's marrying, gambling, womanizing, preaching, low-targeting and winning his day jobs in Congress as a sideline or hobby cannot make him and boxing more popular. I am afraid. And necessary people have died.

—E.A.S. RECTO JR.,
eardaw@ymail.com

## Flowery words from a political butterfly

THE LETTERS in Senator Bol Gong "Kap-pendi" reminded me of Senator Imee Marcos' flowery words in defense of her brother's drug war.

Described to avoid mentioning the name of Sen. Manny Dalmacio Santiago.

Senator Santiago is a well-known political butterfly who always eye the nectar of power to know...Rep. Bayuda, Gloria Arroyo and now, Bongo Cayetano.

Has she early sip the nectar of People Power, at enough she is a beneficiary.

Before talking to Undersecretary Castelo as Carpio Morales, Senator Santiago, claiming to be all-knowing, there is order in the Constitution. Maybe it knows on the whole world the constitutional expert she purports to be. Her questions phrased in flowery words were repeated by Sec. Atty. Jose Calida to take simply and with less legal intricacies.

—DIONE C. FALENCIA,
Building 37, Room 102,
Sapang Lipunan Condominium,
Naga City

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## Not opposition though not part of P-Noy's LP

IT IS perfectly understandable for Manuel F. Almario (Inquirer, 5/7/21) to take a critical stand on some electoral process and the political parties that participate in it. We have had a rather long stint and history as a people, where our political leaders, especially the ruling class, have served their own and the socio-economic elite's interests ahead of the nation's.

But every now and then, in the course of our political struggles against tyranny, oppression, injustice and corruption, there comes a political party that stands and fights for people's rights. In 1978, Laban emerged under the leadership of the martyred Ninoy Aquino as a small but definite party which challenged the Marcos KBL monolith. Laban merged with PDP to become PDP-Laban and pursued the struggle for democracy and freedom.

In the late 1980s, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) was formed to serve as a vehicle for the pro-poor candidacy of Erap Estrada who was eventually given one of the highest mandates by the Filipino electorate. How he came from power, President Erap and his PMP leaders have to be among the most hot opponents of the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regime.

In the aftermath of the 2004 elections when the late Fernando Poe Jr. was cheated, the pro-erap opposition (born formed the United Opposition (UNO) to lead in the struggle against the Arroyo regime. PDP-Laban and PMP formed the backbone of UNO.

It is important to point out these historical developments if only to give context and perspective to the evolution of UNO into the alliance we now call United Nationalists Alliance or UNA. The former ruling together of PDP-Laban and PMP in Pagadian City in the 2019 coming elections is actually rooted in the common experience of these two small but redoubtable political parties in our people's fight for democracy, human rights, the invocation of the Constitution, and good governance. The principles, programs and platform of UNO, PDP-Laban, and PMP are what now announce 2022 is to be to become the dominant political alliance of the future.

UNA is not oppositionist to the present administration of President Aquino. But it is not part of the Liberal Party which is now the ruling party.

UNA intends to keep the integrity and independence of its component political parties. It will seek to enhance and strengthen the governance of President Aquino consistent with every political party's UNA's mandate to economic from government to enable it to facilitate and conspicuously to enhance the present administration while throwing to support behind it. In the future, UNA can build on the gains of President Aquino and provide strong leadership for the country's progress and well-being.

—PABLO VIRAY,
spokesman,
United Nationalist Alliance
media.una@gmail.com

## Heritage site can be real tourist attraction

THE ILL-omened on a news article on the observation deals by an international conservation group, the Global Heritage Fund, about San Sebastian in Intramuros. (Inquirer, 5/5/21) As an alliance of 23-year old Filipino-Intramuros Foundation, a nongovernment organization headed by Ariel Ito Inc., I welcome the decision of Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez to prioritize the development of the "Walled City" into a vital and genuine tourism attraction.

Friends of Intramuros also fully supports the efforts of the Intramuros administration to bring back Intramuros to its old glory and as a storied heritage enclave.

We hope Secretary Jimenez will see fit to allocate the funds necessary to improve lighting along Intramuros' streets in order to encourage more people to visit the place in the evenings, and most importantly, to give back the sidewalks, which have been taken over by illegal vendors, to the pedestrians.

What about doing something to encourage private property owners to come back and reclaim their lands from squatters? We need a clean, securely well-lit, Intramuros.

—GLEN ESPIRITU,
glen.rizon@ymail.com

# CJ leaving fate to God, says defense lawyer

From page A1

among others, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago's motion to subpoena bank officials for the verification of Corona's alleged dollar accounts; Sen. Francis Pangilinan's proposal to hold a hearing on Friday, usually an off (rest) day; and acceptance of the closing arguments of the prosecution and defense panels.

"We hope his testimony will be finished in two days," Noblejas said, but he acknowledged that the length of testimony would depend on the questions.

Iffer Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales last week dropped the bombshell that Corona allegedly kept $11 million in 82 accounts in at least five banks, but lawyers have been prepping him up on "probable questions" to be raised on this score.

"He's studying the facts, reading the data. He will just say what he thinks is right, and what he knows about the whole thing. It will be an honest-to-goodness testimony. Nothing more, nothing less," Quicho said.

"He'll be candid, forthright, truthful. No secrets. That's what we're preparing for."

## Humiliation expected

Quicho said the lawyers expected that Corona would be subjected to ridicule and humiliation despite assurances by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding judge, that he would be accorded due courtesy.

"We are object to the questions of the prosecutors. We won't back down. But it's a different story when judges start asking questions," he said. "We'll be ready for it. This will be the greatest performance of his life. This will define his character."

Of course, the Chief Justice would invoke his right against self-incrimination "if compelled by circumstances," like being asked questions unrelated to the ventilated impeachment complaint, Quicho said. And he's aware of the implications if he invoked this too often, he added.

"Only the Chief Justice can invoke that. When we feel it would not be good for us, we'd adjust," he said.

But definitely, Corona is not facing senator-judges and the prosecutors tomorrow just to clam up, according to Quicho.

"Definitely not. Let's wait for him. Let's give him a chance. He requires a maximum of respect, too," he said.

As for comments that Corona would likely admit in owning a few bank accounts but claim that these came from legitimate sources, Quicho said the public should wait for his testimony and not preempt him.

## Peddler for future

Reminded of observations that the main issue was not the number of accounts Corona kept, but whether the Chief Justice declared these in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth, Quicho said: "Then impeach him. If they have enough knowledge of the facts, why don't they testify?"

He said the call of some senators that Corona issue a waiver on his dollar accounts was premature.

"They should not second-guess the Chief Justice. They have to wait before they give their comments. He should be given a clean slate. He's offering himself as a witness. We should wait for him," he said.

Corona is well aware that even he starts talking, everything he says will be a fodder for the filing of a future criminal case against him, the lawyer said.

"When he testifies, it's open season. He can be attacked; he can also attack," Quicho said. "Everything is on the line. But he's optimistic. He feels vindicated across the face of the sun—a rare occurrence known as the "transit of Venus" that will also require viewers to take precautions.

WITH a report from A7

# A celestial treat for early risers—a rare solar eclipse

From page A1

Administration (Pagasa) Observatory in Quezon City said the eclipse would occur at 5:17 a.m. But observers in the country would only witness a partial eclipse because of the location of the Philippines, said Renaro de Leon, an observatory employee.

Only 61 percent of the sun is expected to be blocked by the moon at 5:58 a.m., De Leon said.

The phenomenon, he said, will end at 7:06 a.m. in Manila and 7:11 a.m. in Mindanao.

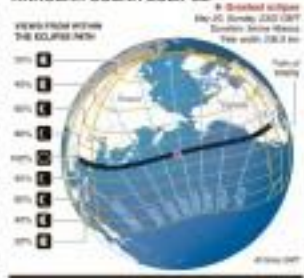
De Leon said anyone in the country could witness the event as long as the skies were clear.

The annular solar eclipse will be visible from a track that will go across China, most of Russia, Southeast Asia, Hawaii, western regions and most of North America, the Pagasa said on its website.

An annular eclipse is not as dramatic as a total eclipse, when the disk of the sun is entirely blocked by the moon. As an annular solar eclipse, the moon comes between the Earth and the sun, but the moon is too far from the Earth and appears too small in the sky to blot out the sun completely.

"It looks like a ring around the sun or like [there is] a still pretty cool," Lowell Chester of the US Naval Observatory said in an e-mail.

## ANNULAR SOLAR EQUIPMENT



The solar spectacle will be first seen in eastern Asia in dawn. Millions of early risers in southern China, northern Taiwan and mainland Japan will catch the ring eclipse. Then, it will sweep across the Pacific with the nearest United States viewing the tail end.

In Japan, cable cars are running early to give tourists an unobstructed view from the mountains. Ferries are also making special trips so that each eye may enjoy the scene off shore.

The Taipei Astronomical Museum will open its doors at dawn while Hong Kong's Space Museum will set up solar-filtered telescopes outside its building on the Kowloon waterfront.

In some parts of the Philippines, people will not be able to see the annular solar eclipse due to cloudy skies, Pagasa said.

It said northern and central Luzon would be covered. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.

## Wear protective filters

De Leon advised observers to wear protective filters for the eyes when watching the sun. "It would be too bright," he said.

He recommended that people use a welder's mask or an exposed X-ray film. He also advised against taking pictures of the eclipse without filtered camera lens.

If one bought special eyewear, one could recycle it.

Two weeks later, Venus will

# No more surgery or chemotherapy-

## –A new cancer treatment: Radiofrequency Ablation can burn the tumors to death!

Dealing with the thought of being stricken with cancer is no easy and often the heavy emotional baggage down the road would be doing to seek to how it can be treated. Should the patient undergo surgery, systemic chemotherapy or radiotherapy? The advent of Radiofrequency Ablation, a new method of healing, may solve both of the problems.

Radiofrequency Ablation is a new technology that uses electromagnetic field to produce heat and acts similar to the concept that can be likened to a microwave oven, but with the difference on the frequencies used. Under this system, when the electric current passes at the electrode surroundings, the polar molecules of the surrounding tissues generate directional swing and through friction heat with current cells.

Pantranao Drug Awards, the first report at the Georgetown Medical Center Hospital explains that Radiofrequency Ablation

Needle, also known as Radiofrequency Ablation Needle is conducted directly through the chest wall, when the needle is penetrated into the middle of the tumor, followed by striking out electrodes. Thereafter, intense molecular vibration at the magnetic field is formed at its surroundings and produce heat. The highest temperature can generate up to 90°C to 110°C heat. The tumor is killed when burned at 45.5 °C for 5 minutes and when the temperature is increased to 120 °C, or burn it to death at 80°C.

Medicine may also be injected through the percutaneous hole, and perform treatment at the localized area. The needle directly penetrates the middle of the tumor so the burning cannot leave inside and goes out. The procedure is done to such a way that a bigger portion of the tumor is burned since some around the tumor are still affected with the safe tissue of tumor which are usually not visible to the naked eyes. Hence when the ablation of the tumor is larger than the tumor, for instance 1 cm of tumor, the tumor is established can be cut in order to make sure that the tumor would be really removed.

A special feature of this Radiofrequency Ablation is the fact that it should be done only once. The one-time treatment can already kill the cancerous tumor and cancerous that is most easily burned, hence viral-free burning, is not needed anymore. The procedure is so simple that convenient for the patients and the institutions can be inserted at the localized area of the body through injection channels.

It is likewise a lot easier to process because as long as the functions of the liver and heart are in good condition , treatments can be done. The surgery usually takes about 20 minutes to an hour. The recovery is fast considering that for cancer patients diagnosed as are early stage, they can walk after the surgery. But for older or those with weak cardiopulmonary functions, a bed arrest one day is advised.

Radiofrequency Ablation is available to those patients with poor health conditions or diagnosed with weak cardiopulmonary functions, and patients that cannot undergo surgery.

If you have questions such matters concerning cancer treatments and has inquiries kindly call [illegible] or visit Unit A-4-01, 67th Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Website: www.pantranao.com

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - May 21, 2012
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading — Acts 19:1-8

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples whom he asked, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered, "We have not even heard that anyone may receive the Holy Spirit." Paul then asked, "What kind of baptism have you received?" And they answered, "The baptism of John."

Paul then explained, "John's baptism was for conversion, but he himself told they should believe in the one who was to come, that is, in Jesus." Upon hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul laid his hands on them and the Holy Spirit came down upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and in prophesy. There were about twelve of them in all.

Paul went into the synagogue and for three months he preached and discussed them boldly, trying to convince them about the Kingdom of God.

Gospel — John 16:29-33

The disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are speaking plainly and not in veiled language! Now we see that you know all things, even before we question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus answered them, "You say that you believe! The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

"I have told you all this, so that in me you may have peace. You will have trouble in the world, but, courage! I have overcome the world."

Reflection

As did Emerson stress the great fear was of being scattered as a disciple, the word "scatter" is used frequently in the present Gospel text you, as a kind of intermediate note: "Scattered, each one went to his home." The seemingly total spreading you receive by the early of the day. The disciples would be sent out "to the whole world." Images that Jesus used of the kingdom were salt, yeast, seeds—all of which are for scattering and getting out in a greater reality. The Wisdom of God comes to fruition in us when, like Jesus, we become willing to lay down our lives, to give ourselves away.

# 'We'll get back what is ours'

From page A1

forfeiture proceedings to the Office of the Ombudsman for unexplained wealth.

Speaking from Las Vegas, Nevada, yesterday, Sara called up this reporter here and talked about her family's course of action against the Coronas with respect to the BCH ownership in light of revelations in the Senate trial about what really happened in the acquisition.

Sara said the Coronas probably did not expect the Susa family and the rest of her relatives to fight back after years of prosecution and persecution allegedly inflicted on them by the Coronas couple given the Chief Justice's position in the judiciary.

Lately, 13 board members of the Susa family have been consulting with their lawyers both in the United States and in the Philippines on their possible course of action against those responsible for the pillage of the corporation.

## Challenge

Sara said the Susa family would challenge the transfer of BCH ownership to the Coronas in the wrongful acquisition of P28,000 and the sale of a BCH property in Sampaloc, Manila, by the Coronas couple to the city government of Manila.

Sara said her family had been informed by no lawyers than all three Coronas, the supposed trial judge and the court officials who rammed the order to garnish her parents' majority shares in BCH without the Susa family's knowledge and allowed their transfer to Cielo were all liable under the law.

Following the death of her husband Jose Mo. Susa II, Rosario Gaston Susa formed BCH on May 30, 1961, and served as treasurer. The shares were divided between her and five children and their spouses, namely Sister Concepcion, Maria Susa and wife Lydia Sarmiento, Jose Mo. Susa and husband Rosario, Sister Flory and Jose Mo. Susa III and wife Ramona Ilo.

Asuncion and Victoria were Cristina's parents, while Jose Mo. III and Esperanza were Sara's parents. Concepcion was corporate secretary, while Victoria, being a lawyer, was made president.

## How fraud began

The fraud between the families at Jose Mo. III and Asuncion began when Victoria died on March 6, 1982. At that time, the tenants at the BCH building had completed to Jose Mo. II that the building was falling apart, but the management was not addressing the issue, Sara said.

She said the stockholders had sent demand letters to inspect corporate books, but Cristina instead wanted the corporation to convene an emergency meeting to resolve all issues involving the tenants' complaints. Jose Mo. III was dissatisfied and summoned only an independent accounting firm to see if they could make sense of what was going on.

Sara said that some of the audit findings were astounding—one year, rent was pacing P1,32,000 annually, but the amount collected in the book of accounts only showed P124,000, outrageous salaries of those running the corporation and exorbitant fees being paid to certain firms hired to process allegedly inflated tax claims.

In 1986, Cristina, acting as assistant secretary, submitted a general information sheet (GIS) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) questioning whether Sister Concepcion and Sister Flory were actually stockholders. She later claimed in court that she was merely acting on the request of Rosario.

In 1987, a notarized demand letter was sent to Victoria and Asuncion by lawyer Michael Leah from Lala Tabios, Nevada, on behalf of the Susa family, but to no avail.

In 1989, Jose Mo. III was elected BCH board chair; Maria, vice president; Sister Concepcion, treasurer; and Melissa Susa Pillado's daughter, secretary.

## Absent at meeting

Victoria and Asuncion were absent to the meeting. A GIS attached to SEC-17C dated May 30, 1989 even showed the BCH board of directors as follows: Jose Mo. II, Esperanza, Sister Concepcion, Sister Flory, Asuncion and Victoria Fernandez.

According to Sara, the names of Maria and Lydia and their heirs no longer appeared because her father had bought their shares, including Cecilia's bowling alley, making Jose Mo. III and Esperanza the majority owners with more than 90 percent of the shares.

Victoria and Asuncion filed Civil Case Nos. 01-98613 and 01-99620 in the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 46, seeking on behalf of BCH the cancellation and annulment of the stockholders' meeting that elected Jose as chair.

The SEC also was alarmed by the corporation re-organize a management committee to oversee BCH until cases were resolved. Jose Mo. III, Esperanza, Cecilia, and Simon Flora and Concepcion submitted two notices in dissent as representatives, while Victoria, Asuncion and Cristina did not submit names.

## Probate case

Victoria, Asuncion and Cristina likewise filed a probate case, claiming that Rosario still owned 87 percent of BCH and that Cristina was entitled to 19 percent of the shares through a deed of assignment from her mother, thus leaving only 3 percent of outstanding shares.

But Asa said there was no record in the corporation of Cristina as a stockholder and as a corporate officer.

A writ of preliminary injunction was later issued by the SEC, which ordered the new board officers to refrain from representing themselves as the new management of BCH until further orders to resolve the dispute.

Among the exemptions from BCH tenants, however, the frame led by Jose Mo. II filed a case of estafa against Cristina for allegedly misappropriating P216,000 in payments to the corporation. They also placed a garnish order on the public funds and pets asking BCH tenants to refrain from making payments to Cristina until the case was resolved.

The case, however, was dismissed by the city prosecutor's office.

## Humiliated

Feeling humiliated, Cristina struck back. She sued Jose Mo. III, Rosario, his sisters and other relatives for libel in Manila and Quezon City, and succeeded in getting hold-departure orders against them.

In the Quezon City case in 1997, a court found Jose Mo. III, Esperanza and Virgilio Manzanilla guilty, and awarded Cristina P500,000 for moral damages. Sister Flory, Cecilia and Betsy Teachaver were acquitted in resolutions.

In 1993, Victoria died, but Asuncion did not report this to the SEC, Sara said. She claimed that whatever assignment given by Victoria to her daughter Cristina as administrator in his capacity as BCH president should be null and void after his death.

In 1995, Asuncion abandoned her position in BCH and moved to California where she died. Sister Concepcion also passed away.

The SEC served a show cause letter to BCH for failure to file its GIS for the years 1994, 1993, 1992 and 1991, and financial statements up to 1991.

The SEC also issued a certification that the corporation's records did not show any board resolution authorizing Cristina to represent BCH in stockholders' meeting for and in behalf of the corporation, Sara said.

Concepcion died in 1995, Jose Mo. III in 2000 and Asuncion in 2006.

## Writ of execution

Of the two counts of libel in which Asa's parents were convicted, one court awarded Cristina P500,000 in damages. Asa said her parents were convicted for failure to attend the promulgation as they were in the United States.

A writ of execution was issued in 2011, enabling Cristina to levy her parents' shares in BCH to cover the P500,000 monetary award in her favor.

At the senate impeachment court on May 8, Sheriff Joseph Bonar of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 216 said under oath that he delivered both the writ of execution and garnishment on the same day they were issued at an address provided by Cristina.

Asa said her parents never received any notice because it was issued to the wrong address—the house of Asuncion Perez, nicknamed Manita and Cristina's mother.

"That was the address of Tita Manita. That's the house of Cristina's parents. She grew up there. That's not our house," Sara said.

## Sole bidder

Sheriff Bonar implemented the public auction and sale of shares of Jose Mo. III and Esperanza in BCH in September 2003, and Cristina's daughter, Carla Corona Castillo, was the only participant in the auction and bought the shares of Jose Mo. III and Esperanza for 51 percent (majority 51 percent of BCH) for P28,000.

"Dad would have never allowed BCH shares to be auctioned off because that was his promise to my grandmother," Asa said. "We can allocate buy the shares, but my parents were concerned any type of scandal [My father] would have figured out another way to pay it."

Asa believes that with the impeachment trial of Corona, her family has a fighting chance to pursue cases in court against the Coronas "without obstruction and harassment," unlike before when the Coronas were close to former Presidents—Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Our lawyers and all three Coronas, especially Cristina, are liable in the stockholders for gross negligence and fraud, but showing the affidavit of BIR and for allowing the shares to go for a mere P28,000. They said she is also guilty of acquiring personal or pecuniary interest in conflict with her duty as a trustee," Sara said.

Asa said her family was relieved that people have come to realize what is behind the "frame-ordain" of the Coronas because of the impeachment.

"You know what they did to us. It shows they have no morals. If they can hurt us, if they can do this to our little family like what we went, Sister Flory's total 'virtual' slaves in the rest of the nation?" she said.

The sale of the BCH property in Sampaloc itself without the knowledge of Asa's heirs, Asa said, was highly questionable since up to now, there was still no decision on the property, other than Cristina had filed against them.

There's still a pending case regarding this, she said, because the stockholders' right to inspect the corporate books had been denied and violated over sixty demand letters sent to Asuncion and Cristina.

## Other properties

Asa said other BCH properties in the same area that were leased by the Coronas were in the name of her father, Jr., up to now the Coronas continue still these properties, she said.

"I wanna ask Cristina: Are you not satisfied? Did [that make you happy? You know the reason for all these? To us, it can't just be money because she also has money. They (Coronas) are just out to hurt us because she was shamed by Dad when he filed an estafa [case] against her. She could not take it and so that's her reason in life—to make my parents miserable," Asa said.

# No politics, just bloc vote, says INC member

From page A1

with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada during the meeddling Liberal bloc of Congress to plead the case of Corona, whom INC believers supported.

A legislative source told the Inquirer that two other administration—Marcos Caceres and Victor Cheng—had been requesting to meet with other senators in recent days to lobby them for Corona's acquittal.

The source said the INC emissaries were going for members of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), a coalition of Manny Pacquiao's PDP-Laban party of Vice President Jejomar Binay and Pimentel Blessing Filipino (PMP) of former President Joseph Estrada.

Enrile, president of UNA, declined to be interviewed on the report. His staff said. His deputy in the Senate, Estrada, said he had not been approached.

## 'Come out'

Navotas City Rep. Tobias Tiangco, UNA secretary general, issued a statement yesterday inviting the minority bloc that canvassed senators belonging to the coalition to plead for Corona's acquittal.

Tiangco decried the legislative session's hiding behind anonymity while trying to "brainwash the population of both INC and UNA."

"Could this be a violation of Congressman [Reynaldo] Umali's small Lady or Congressman [Jorge] Bataki's gun-to-gun counter service?" Tiangco asked.

He urged the source to come out in the open.

"Speak we honorable men?" Tiangco said. "Come out into the light Mr. Congressman at bosses and prove that you're an honorable man."

Senators reached for comment said no INC emissaries had contacted them.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III doubted that INC had sent people senators lobby for Corona, saying the church is nonpolitical. "For all you know, their (INC's) motto is only being used," Sotto said.

Judges Secretary Florentino Abad Jr., a political adviser to President Aquino, also doubted that INC was lobbying for Corona's acquittal.

The vote on Saturday that while Corona would use "all available political levers, even calling upon political debts" to tilt the balance in his favor, he doubted whether the emissaries were deployed by the INC leaders.

## No surprise

Yesterday, a party list lawmaker said INC had always been known to be interesting in the country's political affairs that reports of its meddling in the Corona impeachment came as no surprise.

"Religious leaders can preach, they can give advice and guidance, they can comment on moral matters, they should convert unjust politicians and lead them to the path of goodness. But it's unholy behavior if they use the sacred power of their church or sect to impose their dogmas on how leaders dealt, debate, and vote as public policies," said Bahayan Rep. Raymond Palatino.

"This is no divine intervention which we can live without, it's anathema in a free and vibrant democratic, secular society," Palatino said.

"Politicians must listen to the demands of the religious constituency but there are other voices, views which they must consider too. They should ignore threats of election backlash," he said. "The religious vote is overrated, anyway."

# The last witness: Prelude to mistrial?

From page A1

the all-out trial by publicity to remove Corona from the high court.

Corona's turn to defend him self comes after four months of no holds-barred vilification of Chief Justice in the impeachment court and in the media in what is clearly an unequal combat between the head of the weakest branch of the government, in a supposedly democratic political system, and the President of the Republic, the most powerful official of the land, fielded by the police powers of the state and the patronage resources at the disposal of the Chief Executive.

Clearly, the defense panel have an uphill battle to save Corona from dismissal, and has an illusion about the huge odds stacked against it and its chances of winning his acquittal.

The purpose of this article is to assess the balance of the deployment of forces on the scales of this epic trial, so the public won't have false and unrealistic expectations of its outcome, despite the often brilliant on-court performance of the talented defense panel, led by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas.

At the same time, this article serves to emphasize the point that since the start of the trial on Jan. 16, I have argued that I had no quarrel with the administration's actions to prosecute officials of the previous administration to hold them accountable, including the impeachment of Corona, who is accused of betrayal of public trust for offenses spelled out in the articles of impeachment as the conditions that Corona is guilty of are serious that Corona is given a fair trial under the regime of the rule of law and due process within the framework of the rules of impeachment outlined by the presiding judge, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, in his opening policy statement.

Up to this stage of the trial, this concern for fairness has remained the position of this space and the reason why it has refrained from comments on evidence not public, introduced in the media outside the jurisdiction of the impeachment court.

## Integrity of trial

I believe that the view of allowing the televised broadcast a fair and impartial decision without undue interference by extraneous forces, including the Aquino administration, is shared by many in the public as an important means to ensure the trial. Consequently, it is erroneous and unfair to accuse anyone taking this position as being pro-Corona.

The outcome—either conviction or acquittal—is less important than the integrity of the trial. Recent opinion surveys showed that most Filipinos would accept either a guilty or not guilty decision provided the trial process is seen as fair.

The mistrial arrived at a juncture where every measure of outside interventions in the functions of the senator-judges in an effort to influence their vote is closely watched by the public. At this point, questions have been raised about the validity of the testimony of the trial.

Such event could also lead to the political dissect of a colored material that could trigger the collapse of the impeachment process, paving the way for the dismissal that the breakdown of the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada following the suppression of evidence on his bank transactions. The suppression halted the trial and triggered people power demonstrations that forced his ouster of office.

## Prosecutors in Palace

On the eve of Corona's appearance, three prosecutors—Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, lawyer Mario Bautista and Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya—were sighted by Inquirer photographers in Malacañang, raising questions on what they were doing there or whether they were seeking instructions from the Palace.

Palace officials admitted that the prosecutors had met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said: reporters that he didn't know what the prosecutors discussed with Ochoa.

On the side of the defense, comments associated with Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) were reported by the Inquirer, quoting an undisclosed legislative source, to have been lobbying senator-judges to try and sway them to acquit Corona. The reports said the emissaries sought meetings with some senator-judges, but they rejected the request ostensibly to the effect to remain independent in their decisions on the case.

In February, the religious sect held a large rally at Rizal Park in Manila, attended by an estimated half a million members, in a show of force and political clout to manifest its support for Corona. Corona is an INC member.

Since January, the President has been meeting with the independence of the impeachment trial by declaring Corona guilty in public statements even before the defense had presented its case in the tribunal.

This was followed by publicity stunts by the administration's strategy of bringing in cases directly to public opinion, underscoring the impeachment process in the effort, apparently intended to put pressure on the senator-judges to vote "on the side of the voice of the people" or "on the right side of history."

This was a prelude for building up the rule of the lynch mob in spite of the rule of law based on evidence. The impeachment tribunal has no place in this dangerous adventure.

# THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the **NATION**

# 4,000 people lose homes to fire in Tacloban City

TACLOBAN CITY—More than 4,000 people were rendered homeless on Sunday when fire destroyed more than 800 houses in one of the city's depressed areas.

Fire investigators were looking into the cause of the fire that hit Barangays 80, 80-A and 81 in Tagbubungan Proper, Tacloban, about 19:30 a.m.

City Fire marshal Chief Insp. Adel Imarato said the fire started from one of the houses in Barangay 81-A and quickly spread to the neighboring villages of 80 and 81 as the houses were made of light materials.

"We had difficulty getting out the fire due to the strong wind. The fire spread quickly," Imarato said.

Firefighters from Palo, Tanauan, Alangalang, Isa, Pr and Tolosa towns and the Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade helped the Tacloban fire department to put out the fire.

Councilor Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez said the city government mobilized its various offices to help the affected families. "The mayor issued a directive to make Tacloban Convention Center a temporary shelter for the fire victims," she added.

Joey A. Gallardo, Inquirer Visayas

# Illegal sand, rock mining back in Sariaya

## NEWSBRIEFS

**■ BATANGAS**

### 2 killed in shootout

TWO PERSONS died and one others were wounded after a shooting incident in a snake in Makiling Lemery on Tuesday night.

Police said the shooting was prompted by an argument between gamblers over alleged cheating in a card game in Barangay Caubian during a in Malaruhan—Wilfredo Lumbres, 37, and Zaldy Garma, 39—were dealers in a card game and were on a watching at least.

One of the players, Manuelito Sarcino, 48, who was heavily fuming at their boss, asked that he not be being used in the game be changed. With a new set of cards, Liberty Rosario, 38, took over Lumbres as dealer. But after two rounds, Rosario and Sarcino stood up saying they no longer have money.

It was here, witnesses said, when Lumbres yelled at Rosario and slapped him. This was reportedly followed by gunshots. Radio reports said Lumbres and Garma died from bullet wounds in their heads. Police could not say who shot the victims, saying they were still conducting an investigation.

Reports said Rosario, Gerome Amanto Bobier, Rolly Mayores, Rowena Gianio and Esperanza Feria were wounded and were taken to Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in San Carlos City. **Cielo M. Casilao, trainee; Inquirer Lucena**

**■ BATANGAS**

### 2 die, 26 hurt in accident

A TRUCKER and a boy died in a road accident while on board a Bu-Ba bus traveling along Rizal Center Extension, Dumantay, Lagtang Arterial Road, Barangay Ayo, San Jose, Batangas, on Wednesday.

Lipa City police chief Supt. Christopher Binang said that at around 9:30 a.m., Tito Ilagan, 27, and Elijah Emmanuel Ilustre, two-year-old boy, were killed when the Philippines, Olondad Mendoza, died when the driver lost control of the bus and swerved to the right.

Chief Insp. Pedro Macaraig, San Jose town police, said 26 persons were injured in the incident. 16 of whom were brought to Mary Mediatrix Medical Center in Lipa City, while 10 others were rushed to San Jose District Hospital in San Jose.

Macaraig said the driver, a certain J. Tabaldoc from Rizal, fled after the incident. Tabaldoc was nearing while driving but police said the driver fell asleep. **Rizal Dobo Lualhati, Inquirer Lucena**

### Security exec shot dead

AN EMPLOYEE of the city government was killed while his coworker was wounded when gunmen fired at them as they were traveling along the national road of Barangay Matalang in Lipa City shortly before midnight on Thursday.

Lipa City police chief Supt. Christopher Binang said Ricardo Matias, 37, and Ricardo Dalisay, 49, both security officers of the city-run Robinhyn Ng Lungsod ng Lipa are members of the Public Order and Safety, were each on board their motorcycles when gunmen drove at around 11:10 p.m.

"The victims were bound for Lipa City Hall to report for the midnight duty when they encountered the suspects," said Binang.

Matias, who suffered multiple bullet wounds in his body, died on the spot. Dalisay had a fine bullet wound on his right hip. The wounded survivor of gunmen sped off on board a motorcycle, said Binang. **Marcial Doloj Lualhati, Inquirer S. Luzon**

ETJAPES of uprooted coconut trees have left an ugly scar along the coast of Tayabas Bay in Sariaya, Quezon, from years of illegal sand quarrying.

## DILG to award 'seal of disaster preparedness' to LGUs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—How prepared are local governments in protecting lives and properties during disasters?

Until last month, there has been no common and exact method for measuring the disaster preparedness and quality of response to calamities of local governments, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said.

"I'm sure they have an attitude across local preparedness because of experiences from past disasters but there is no assessment that measures that so [which] helps them identify gaps [to enable them to] solve those," Robredo told the reporters.

Without a uniform assessment tool, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has come up with a Seal of Disaster Preparedness (SDP) to help reinforce the disaster preparedness system in the country, he said.

The SEAL will award the seal, as well as a cash incentive, to local governments that have developed capabilities to respond to disasters, as prescribed by Republic Act No. 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010).

"Ilan Pilipinas capital is pursuing the SDP. Aside from rehabilitating a river that serves as a flood drain, the city had passed an ordinance localizing the implementation of RA 10121.

"The ultimate aim is to make use of a set of [measurements] in assessing whether [a local government] is ready or not for the worst typhoons and floods," Robredo said.

"We'd like to look at institutional, organizational and operational [capabilities]. Is the disaster risk reduction management council functional? Is an alert system in place? Are there designated evacuation centers? Do they have equipment for rescue?" he said.

He said citizens should take the seal as a source of pride as well as a reminder to be vigilant against disasters.

Like the Seal of Good Housekeeping, which the DILG awards and which local governments use to avail of the agency's Performance Challenge Fund, he said the SDP authorizes local governments to use 70 percent of their calamity fund to buy equipment or organize disaster-response training.

Robredo issued Memorandum Circulars 99 and 93 to guide local governments in the assessment of capabilities and in the use of the calamity fund.

Assessments are helpful, he said.

For instance, the DILG produced a "vulnerability protocol" after Kibi (Bali) floods hit Cagayan de Oro. This means assessing for bad weather or advice the evacuation route if there's enough two channels that begin either from top to bottom. Does DILG to the mayor) or the reverse.

Local governments often consider the lack of equipment a problem, Robredo said, adding that not all coastal towns or cities are equipped with motorized rubber boats.

In an April 16 letter, Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, asked local governments to submit an inventory of their equipment.

Other local governments, Robredo said, might have to resort to permanent housing, like in Pampanga where old dikes of the Pampanga River had been damaged. **Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon**

## Despite NPA attack, firm to continue airport work

By Ma' S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Despite the huge damages it suffered, Samweni Construction and Development Corp. (SCDC) on Sunday announced it would finish the construction of the Southern Luzon International Airport (SLIA) in Barangay Alobo, Daraga, Albay.

Rhonilo Co, SCDC president, on Sunday said they were deeply saddened by the loss of over P300 million worth of equipment torched on Friday night by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels, but said it would not deter them from carrying out the multibillion peso private-public partnership project.

"When we accepted the contract to do the construction work of the airport, we did the same not only as a business venture but importantly, we want to contribute our share in uplifting the lives of our fellow Bicolanos by giving livelihood and pump priming the local economy," Co said in a statement.

The burning of the company's equipment was major loss to SCDC, not counting the expense it

SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels burned over P1.66 million worth of heavy equipment at the construction site of the Southern Luzon International Airport, Barangay Alobo, Daraga, Albay, on Friday night.

has funded by the national government located at a 600-hectare land in Alobo, Daraga town, some 10 kilometers from Legazpi City.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said P600 million was released this year to start the construction of touch landing to the airport site.

He said that the SLIA is critical to achieving the 600,000 tourists target for Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate by 2016.

With Legazpi being served by 11 flights, the Bicol region is critical to avoid the 22-percent cancellation rate in 2011 due to bad weather while the existing airport cannot be fitted with an instrument landing system due to its proximity to Mt. Mayon and the city proper which outdoors restrictions consults flight options.

"The tourism will not move forward with the existing airport," he said. 2014 to the airport," he said.

By Gaille T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SARIAYA, Quezon—Four persons were caught hauling illegally sourced sand aboard two trucks in Barangay Castaños in Sariaya, Quezon, on Friday, a move expected to stop rampant illegal sand quarrying in the town.

"The extracted sand are often hauled to hollow-block makers and construction projects in nearby towns and barangay centers," said Gregory Sheila de Leon, chief of Sariaya Municipal Enforcers Tagalog.

De Leon and his staff members joined members of the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board, police and army soldiers in an operation in Sariaya on Friday.

Barangay Captain Agnes Marin Rivera said illegal quarry operators from Barangay had been digging for sand in the shallow portion of Tayabas Bay fronting their village for several years now.

The seaboard sand quarrying has caused the sea water to advance about 300 meters and corroded a sizeable portion of coconut farmland.

To show the grave effect of long years of beach quarrying, Rivera said the color sea water in Barangay Castaños is not the village's softball playing field.

Rivera pointed to several uprooted coconut trees along the coast, which, he said, were the effect of inland intrusion of sea water. He said more than 50 coconut trees had been uprooted due to sea water intrusion.

He said illegal sand quarrying stopped after it was reported on TV last month. "But lately, the sand haulers are back. They operate at night," said another villager.

### Illegal quarrying

A truck was seen on a distance being loaded with sand quarried along the coastline.

In Castaños, the group caught a truck being loaded with sand from the river under the newly constructed concrete bridge.

The truck driver, Reynaldo Inalvez Jr. from San Jose, Batangas, said they bought the sand for P850 per truck from a local resident engaged in sand quarrying using a spade.

Inalvez pointed to a village councilor in Alaguy in Bauan, Batangas, as the owner of the truck. "We have no more sand to quarry in our place that's why we're buying them here in Sariaya," Inalvez told the Inquirer.

The group also flagged down another truck loaded with sand along the Quezon-Batangas provincial road in Castaños.

The truck driver, Jeremy Beque from Tayug, Quezon, pointed to one Eduardo Andreza also from the same town as the owner of the cargo.

The truck drivers and their helpers were brought to the barangay office for custody. De Leon said the suspects would be charged with illegal quarrying.

De Leon said they have also been receiving reports that destructive rock mining operations are rampant in the town of Mauban Batangas in Sariaya.

"The team made rounds there. Illegal mining activities pose a serious danger in case of flash floods," De Leon said.

The local government has been banning quarrying operations to the natural riverbed.

More Sports on A25 to A28

Late SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Makeshino
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

GOVS' CUP INAUGURALS

# Petron, Rain or Shine humble separate foes

By Maong R. Castillo

SANTIPOLO—Petron Blaze and Rain or Shine pounded out positionally similar victories last night, almost blowing overmatching foes before finishing off their respective foes with a flurry of baskets in tip-starting PBA Governors' Cup duels at the Smart Araneta Coliseum here.

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center, Antipolo)
4:15 p.m.—GAS vs Barangay Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Meralco vs Air 21

The defending champion Boosters got 28 points and 18 rebounds from import Eddie Basden in a 97-83 win over the Riverrats. Tigers after the Elasto Painters blew but shot cold on the way to putting a 107-100 decision of the Alaska Aces misfire.

Petron built a 21-point lead at the half, and like the Painters in the first game, had to weather a spirited rally by the Tigers behind the sideburned Rashad McCants to expand on the win.

Basden guided his squad to the victory in a matchup between two highly touted rookies teamed with high-octane NBA experience despite just five days of practice with the Boosters.

"He's a very smart player," Petron coach Jay Ignacio said. "He can still improve."

Jay Washington made his first appearance in more than a year and finished with ten free points, while Marvin Lozano (the Boosters' new acquisition from Powerade, set to out because of a fractured right hand) and could be out for six weeks at the most.

McCants, the former first-round pick of the Minnesota Timberwolves, also scored 27 points, with local scoring champion Gary David adding 26.

Import Jamelle Comley scored 13 of his 27 points in a wild first quarter, and Jeff Chan delivered from afar in the second half as the Elasto Painters held off the Aces and gave new Alaska coach Luing Velez a rude welcome.

The Painters built leads of as many as 23 points in the first half and saw this unlocked down to three in the halftime point of the third before Chan hit his treble, including a rare four-point play.

"I am happy with the way we played today," coach Tony Boy Cruz said. "It's important that we win (games) early, this being a short conference."

Comley found on his first game, could give the 3006 coaching staff a problem—since Arizona Head, the Wolves' import here last year, is an assistant after playing in Germany.

ALASKA import Jason Forcier looks for the open lane against Rain or Shine counterpart Jamelle Comley

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# 'Nothing vulgar in Lady Gaga concert'

## Organizer assures critics after meeting with Pasay mayor

By Pocholo Concepcion
Inquirer Entertainment

THE HULLABALOO on whether the Manila concert of American pop superstar Lady Gaga would corrupt the morals of the Filipino youth has made it to the pages of international publications like The New York Times and Rolling Stone.

But the very center of the controversy has reportedly chosen to ignore the issue as she prepares for the shows, which open tonight and continue tomorrow at the newly constructed 20,000-seater Old Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

"She is holed up in her hotel suite," said Renee de Guia, head of Dominic Productions, which organized the concert as part of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way Ball" tour.

The controversial singer-songwriter is billeted at Makati Shangri-La hotel, where fans awaited her arrival on Saturday night.

Asked why the artist had not talked to the media since her arrival, De Guia told the Inquirer: "Her feeling is that she has gone past the stage where she has to explain herself to the press."

Days before the concert, religious groups including the Catholic Church rose in protest against what they considered to be morally offensive images and lyrics to Lady Gaga's music videos and songs.

De Guia yesterday said he was summoned to the Pasay City mayor's office on Friday as a result of the protests.

He said he had to explain to Mayor Antonio Calixto and a number of city officials that the concert had nothing to do with the music video of "Judas," the Lady Gaga song which had drawn the most outrage.

"I was a good thing, Sir Gras added, that Craig David, who works in Lady Gaga's man-

MORE PHOTOS A22

THE Lady Gaga on stand to explain herself, according to her local promoter

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# Iran envoy's Forbes Park home robbed

By Nikko Calleja

ROBBERS allegedly broke into the home of the Iranian ambassador in the upscale Forbes Park subdivision in Makati City on Saturday, taking the diplomat's wallet and other valuables, police said.

SPO1 Jessie Acosta of the Makati police said Ambassador Ali Asgar Soltanieh (63), who resides on McKinley Street, reported the burglary at around 5 p.m. on Saturday.

According to Ali, the robbers may have entered through the basement door of the house, the officer said.

The ambassador's helpers claimed to have locked the door at around 2 a.m. of May 19 before finding it open when they woke up at around 6 a.m., he said.

"His helpers made sure the basement door was locked. They don't know how the robbers managed to open it apparently without using force," Acosta told the reporters over the phone.

The diplomat lost his wallet containing a still undetermined amount of cash, a cell phone, and several watches, he added. The ambassador remembered placing the stolen valuables on the dining table.

Barangay Forbes Park, where many foreign diplomats live, has its own private security force.

"It's one of those gated villages in Makati where we are not allowed to do our regular patrol," according to the city police chief, Senior Supt. Jaime Santos.

Jessica said investigators were not discounting the possibility that the robbery was an inside job and that the envoy's helpers were in collusion with the robbers.

They were also checking if there were closed-circuit television cameras installed near the envoy's residence that captured the alleged perpetrators breaking in, Santos said.

THE MANY LOOKS OF LECHON

Cosplayers (role-players) on Sunday at the annual festival that celebrates the luscious, mouth-watering appeal of the roasted pig in La Loma, Quezon City

## METROBRIEFS

### Stabbed, thrown off bus

A CALL center agent was stabbed dead on a passenger bus another thrown out of the vehicle by a gang of six men who tried to rob him before dawn in Guiguinto City on Sunday. Police said Juan Paolo Arriola, 28, a resident of Barangay Bahay Pare, Project 8, in Guiguinto City, was rushed to state hospitals after the attack. Citing eyewitness accounts, PO2 Jonathan Cagara said the victim was about to get off a Dimi Liner bus at around 1:30 a.m. on the southbound lane of Filipino Project 7 when he was stabbed. After Arriola fell to the ground, six men, one of them carrying a fan knife, jumped off the bus and ran away. The attackers included an employee of the PITX (the biggest terminal of Filipino Resources Development Corporation) in Project 7. Alexis Romero

### Manila cop shot dead

A MEMBER of the Manila Police District was shot dead in Malate on Saturday night. PO2 Anthony de la Cruz, 31, of MPD's Special Support Unit was about to ride a motorcycle on Adriatic Street when he was shot three times at around 9:30 p.m. The shooting was heard by a resident of Barangay 717, who rushed to the scene and found Dela Cruz already lying on the ground next to his bike. Case investigator PO3 Alexcio Layugan said the victim died on the spot. Jayvee T. Sison and Ace Clark Yap

# Radyo Inquirer medical mission goes to Taguig

By Nikko Calleja

The GMA-City residents received world-class medical services on Sunday during a humanitarian mission organized by dzIQ Radyo Inquirer 990 AM, the broadcast arm of the Inquirer Group of Companies.

A 220-member team from St. Luke's Medical Center provided free medical, dental and pediatric care performed at the barangay hall in Western Bicutan for the half-day project.

It was not a typical medical mission, said Cecille Ignacio, project coordinator of St. Luke's Angat Buhay Foundation Inc. "We are not just doing consultations and giving away medicines, we are here to bring the modern technology that we have to the hospital," Ignacio said.

The volunteer doctors and nurses performed minor surgeries, dental extractions and treatments, and consultations.

One of the patients, Wadelyn Nunez, came with a cyst just below her armpit which she had been enduring for 18 years.

"I just had no money to have it removed," said the 18-year-old housewife, mistaken after a surgeon finally cured her problem.

Ignacio noted that, like Nunez, "most of our patients today would rather spend money on food and other immediate needs than incur a consultation which those they can endure for the rest of their lives."

Rosalie Pavon-Leung, marketing manager for Radyo Inquirer, avidly noted that "this medical mission is quite bloody" since most of the services rendered for free were surgeries and dental extractions.

The Taguig mission was the third to be conducted by Radyo Inquirer, with the first held in Barangay Malitlit in Imecor, Cavite province, and the second in Silicon province last June.

Among dzIQ's partners for the mission are Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Rockford, the Lilak party-list group, and Hyundai.

# Cleaner alternative offered to Tondo charcoal makers

By Neil A. Ermitaño

SMOKE gets in their eyes—and poisons the air over the city...every time the residents of Ulingan in Tondo, Manila, try to make a living.

But the community, which got its name from its 15-year-old charcoal-making industry, now a backyard venture for some 350 people, may finally be seeing up to change.

Cleaner change, to be more Ulingan, a social likelihood within managers 105, has been chosen as a pilot area for a project that will test the viability of smokeless kilns or "pugons," a technology that can significantly reduce the polluting effects of what is traditionally a messy, toxic process of producing uling.

At least seven community leaders recently underwent orientation at a facility in Silang, Cavite, and an initial batch of smokeless kilns would soon be installed for them, according to the non-governmental organization, Urban Poor Associates (UPA).

The project is a joint initiative of the UPA and the Silang-based 1M Agro-Pro of Development Ventures, with the support of the Archdiocese of Manila and the National Housing Authority.

UPA volunteer Anna Margallo said charcoal-making has been a viable source of income for residents of Ulingan as households only dissipate after narrow until the rising cost of cooking fuel, mainly liquefied petroleum gas.

About 15 residents started this backyard business in 1997, using scrap wood collected by scavengers. Through the years, it has grown profitable enough to attract even outsiders to build their own pugons in the area.

The process is relatively simple: heaps of wood are placed to coal-base kilns, covered with sheets of galvanized iron and soil, and then heated by fire from underneath. It takes about 18 to 22 days to carbonize wood this way.

According to Margallo, Ulingan currently produces around 6,000 sacks of charcoal out of 300 tons of scrap wood each month. A charcoal maker can sell each sack weighing 35 to 36 kilos for P180 to households and food establishments, and earn an average monthly profit of P6,000.

Before going into charcoal-making, resident Ariel Malabay used to do odd jobs, including picking through trash for recyclables sold to junk shops.

But since setting up his first pugon in 2000, Malabay had been able to support a family of six. Uling, he said, had kept his four young children in school and even allowed his wife Irma to open a sari-sari store.

"We got by through hard work," he said with pride.

Many charcoal business now employ some of their neighbors. "Either we pay them in cash or we give them a share from what we produce," Irma added.

But their methods remain stuck in the dirty past. The residents themselves admit that their children often get sick from all the smoke.

"It's really suffocating," Ariel said. "We sometimes put on masks, but they still press noses with all the thick smoke."

"Our kids would sometimes beg us to just leave this place," Irma added.

Being in the middle of an urban sprawl, Ulingan has inevitably been the subject of complaints from residents in nearby areas. A few years back, the environment department and Manila city government shut down some pugons for violations of the Clean Air Act.

But despite this crackdown, old-style kilns continue to operate. "Since the government can't offer an alternative [authorities] can at least ask the residents to control the smoke," said Marlon Lloveda, the UPA coordinating officer who pushed for the introduction of smokeless kilns.

Developed by Juan Marquez of 1M Agro-Pro, a smokeless kiln is made of concrete and basically traps smoke through a pipe for conversion into water vapor.

The new system also involves a machine that runs the wood into usable size, with the finished product coming out "like donuts," according to one resident who saw a demonstration in Silang.

UPA said the long-term project envisioned for Ulingan would require an investment of around P2.7 million. This would include a facility that could produce charcoal briquettes, a wood smoke-treatment system, and a transformer.

"We still were stands if there were kilns could be sustainable," Lloveda said.

UPA hopes that apart from the technology transfer, Ulingan residents can also form cooperatives to further level up their businesses. It can reduce their dependence on loan sharks, for example, Lloveda added.

"This is one way for the urban poor to be empowered and be able to stand on their own feet," he stressed.

SMOKELESS Kiln like these may finally mean a safer, healthier working environment for this mid-setting.

# Retired US military man found dead in Ermita hotel

A RETIRED US military serviceman was found dead in his hotel room in Ermita, Manila, on Sunday morning.

Police identified the body to be that William Mathew, 58, of Pinellas on DC. The cause of death was still unknown as of yesterday.

Mathew's body had no visible injuries when found by hotel security at around 7 a.m. inside his room at Bellevue Pavilion Hotel, where he checked in and paid P14,000 for a 10-day stay on Monday, May 14.

Security guard Ruslen Acosta said Mathew was seen having dinner in his room and watching television on Saturday night.

Repeated phone calls to his room on Sunday morning were unanswered, prompting the hotel staff to check on him, he said.

Mathew was rushed to Manila Doctors Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Homicide investigator PO3 Amelito Lopez said Mathew's room was orderly and showed no signs of a commotion or foul play.

US Consul Shalita Bradshaw, who confirmed Mathew's background as a retired US military serviceman, have went to the victim's hotel room also to investigate, Lopez said.

Jayvee T. Sison

# Nothing vulgar in Lady Gaga concert

From page A11

agement, had flown in a day earlier to check on the venue.

"He assured me that there would be nothing vulgar or offensive in the show. I brought him along to Pasay City Hall," said De Guia.

As to the possibility of protesters watching the show, De Guia said he expected a number of them to use the themselves while they have been covering about."

He said complementary tickets were given to Pasay City hall officials and their representatives so they would also see for themselves whether the show would violate laws against indecency in public places.

Regarding "Judas," a track from Lady Gaga's third album, released last year, De Guia admitted that he himself "Googled the lyrics" to find out what the line was all about, and that he found nothing wrong with it.

The song's music video features a crucified Jesus Christ and biblical characters, with Lady Gaga portraying a modern-day Mary Magdalene caught between her devotion to Jesus Christ and an attraction to Judas Iscariot.

Lady Gaga has been quoted on the Internet service provider MSN Canada as having explained:

"Judas is a metaphor and an analogy about forgiveness and betrayal, and things that bound you to your life, and how I believe that it's the darkness in your life that ultimately defines and illuminates the greater light that you have upon you."

She also admitted that she wrote the song to look back on a final relationship, which was also the subject of "Bad Romance," one of the tracks from her 2009 album "The Fame Monster."

To all the hush-critics of Lady Gaga, De Guia said: "Don't be so believing of your leaders. Understand what you're protesting about. Read the lyrics of her songs carefully and see if there's really anything evil about them."

Tonight and tomorrow's concerts mark Lady Gaga's second visit to the Philippines. She first performed in Manila at Smart Araneta Coliseum in August 2009.

LOTS OF SKIN BUT NOT A SIN A Lady Gaga performance during a June 2011 concert in Japan.

# China's Chen lands in US, ending diplomatic drama

BEIJING—Chen Guangcheng, the blind legal advocate who made an improbable escape from virtual house arrest and sought refuge in the US Embassy here, arrived in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday ending a fraught diplomatic drama that threatened to disrupt relations between China and the United States.

The US role in aiding Chen—quitting him into the embassy after he escaped with the help of other dissidents—infuriated the Chinese, who complained fiercely about what they considered interference in their internal affairs. But in the end they quietly engaged with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and a team of diplomats to defuse what could have evolved into a full-blown diplomatic crisis.

For Chinese government, Chen's departure followed a pattern of allowing some especially vocal dissidents to leave in order to minimize the impact of their activities on home, but it also appeared to reflect an assurance that it was not worth damaging relations with the United States to force him to stay.

In Washington, the State Department welcomed Chen's departure and praised the Chinese government's statement that reflected its handling of the case from the start. Understated and nonconfrontational, despite the emotions and high stakes involved for both countries.

"We also express our appreciation for the success to which we were able to resolve this matter and to support Mr. Chen's desire to study in the US and pursue his goals," the State Department spokesperson, Victoria Nuland said.

Her statement referred to the complex understanding—the Chinese were loath to call it a deal—in which Chen was allowed to attend New York University Law School on a fellowship rather than seek asylum, while the authorities in Beijing considered an affront. School officials said they had already stocked a faculty apartment with Chinese food and new furniture for him. He arrived at Newark Liberty International Airport on Saturday evening.

**His departure...after two weeks of waiting—needed a major embarrassment to him for the Obama administration, which initially arranged for Chen to stay and study in China, only to see him change his mind once he left the embassy and entered a Beijing hospital for treatment. That prompted criticism from activists and some Republicans in Congress who accused the administration of seeking an expedient solution to a troublesome problem ahead of Clinton's visit to China in early May.**

Chen left Beijing on Saturday night with his wife and two children, and like most events surrounding his case, the departure was shrouded in secrecy. Chen and his family said they did not know they were leaving the country until several hours before the flight, and it was only on their way to the airport that they learned where they were heading. The passports they had been awaiting were delivered by Chinese officials shortly before they boarded the plane.

Once on board, flight attendants promptly drew a curtain around their business class seats and barred other passengers in the cabin from using the toilet while the plane was on the runway.

Speaking by cell phone before he boarded the flight, Chen told friends that he was excited to be leaving China but that he was also sorry and afraid that the fate of relatives he was leaving behind.

**Bob Fu, president of ChinaAid, a** Christian advocacy group in Texas that championed Chen's case, said, "He's happy to finally have a rest after seven years of suffering, but he's also worried **they will suffer some retaliation."**

The China Daily Web site reported directly to Beijing International Airport by employees of Chaoyang Hospital, where Chen was being treated for intestinal problems and for the foot he broke during his escape. Airline officials increased security on the flight, and reporters were told they would not be able to speak to Chen during the 13-hour trip to Newark.

Chen's odyssey began last month when he escaped from house arrest, scaling walls and evading the chorus of guards who were charged with keeping him and his family locked in their Shandong province farmhouse.

With the help of Chinese activists, Chen, 40, made his way to Beijing, and three days later, into the US diplomatic compound. During 20 hours of tense negotiations between US and Chinese officials, Chen rejected the idea of asylum and insisted that he wanted to stay in China—as long as he and his family could be shielded from further persecution. Bob, he feared, might silence his voice as an advocate for reform in China. Amy Sterk Times Wires Service

BLIND Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng arrives at the campus of New York University on May 19. —

Republic of the Philippines
National Program Support for Environmental and Natural Resources Management Project (NPS- ENRMP)

GENERAL SURVEY VOLUMES

(In the Municipalities of Pres. Quirino, Lebak, Kalamansig and Esperanza, Provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, Province of North Cotabato, and Surallah, South Cotabato, COSAR Region XII)

Project ID No.: GEOF-PCAUC-NMO-ICB-G-012
Loan Number 7474-PH

May 21, 2012

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from International Bank for the cost of the Investment Survey Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the NSP Investment Survey Contract being awarded through International Competitive Bidding. Bidders are invited to submit sealed bids for the following survey packages:

| Province/Municipality/Barangay/Project Site | Estimated No. of Days | Estimated COA (Php) | Duration/ Completion Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat – Sk. 1(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 2. Lebak, Sultan Kudarat – Sk. 1(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 3. Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat – Sk. 1(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 4. Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat – Sk. 1(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 5. Esperanza, North Cotabato – Sk. 1 (NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 6. Surallah, South Cotabato – Sk. 1(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 7. Surallah, South Cotabato – Sk. 2(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 8. Surallah, South Cotabato – Sk. 3(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |
| 9. Surallah, South Cotabato – Sk. 4(NEW) | 60 | 1,200,000 | November 30, 2012 |

Bidders should have completed, within four (4) years, a similar survey to this Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders contained in the Bidding Documents.

2. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with bidding procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the WB's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits dated May 2004, revised October 2006 and May 2010 and is open to all bidders as defined in the Guidelines. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Management Office (PMO) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, while bidders may purchase the bidding documents at the address given below from May 21, 2012 to June 20, 2012 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) per set.

| Province/Municipality/Barangay | Project No. | Estimated Project Cost | Category |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat | Sk. 1(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Lebak, Sultan Kudarat | Sk. 1(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat | Sk. 1(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat | Sk. 1(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Esperanza, North Cotabato | Sk. 1 (NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | Sk. 1(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | Sk. 2(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | Sk. 3(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | Sk. 4(NEW) | 1,200,000.00 | B |

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Investment Survey Consultant Selection Committee (ISCSC) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, while bidders may purchase the bidding documents at the address given below from May 21, 2012 to June 20, 2012 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) per set.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased on the aforementioned address from May 21, 2012 upon the submission of a written request and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) per set.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Bank, provided that bidders shall immediately register with the PhilGEPS to be able to download the bidding documents from the website of the Bank.

4. Bidders should submit their bids in a sealed envelope clearly indicating the name of the project and the words "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 2:00 P.M. on June 21, 2012" at the address given below on or before June 21, 2012 at 12:00 noon. Late bids shall be rejected. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents, valid for the period specified in the Bidding Documents.

5. Bid opening shall be on June 21, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. at the address given below. Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening shall be given a maximum of two (2) minutes to present their authorization to attend the bid opening. Only bids that are opened and read out at the bid opening shall be considered further.

| Municipality/Project No. | Bond or Guarantee or Manager's Check and Draft Amounting to not less than Bid Security in accordance with ITB Clause 18.1 |
|---|---|
| Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat | 24,000.00 |
| Lebak, Sultan Kudarat | 24,000.00 |
| Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat | 24,000.00 |
| Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat | 24,000.00 |
| Esperanza, North Cotabato | 24,000.00 |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | 24,000.00 |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | 24,000.00 |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | 24,000.00 |
| Surallah, South Cotabato | 24,000.00 |

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend immediately after the deadline for the submission of bids at the same address as that for the submission of bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. The Project Director of NPS-ENRMP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to:

(SGD) E. BENDANILLO
Chief, BAC Secretariat
NPS-ENRMP – Agusan Sumilao Project
Purok 1, Barangay Sumilao, City of Cabadbaran, Philippines
Telephone No. (085) 815-2127
Telefax No. (085) 815-2127
Mobile No. 0918-9-NPSENRMP (0918-9-677-7367)

(PDI – May 21, 2012)


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The WORLD

# Leaders of G-8 countries urge growth, not austerity

CAMP DAVID, Maryland—Leaders of the world's richest countries banded together on Saturday to press Germany to back more pro-growth policies to halt the deepening debt crisis in Europe, as President Barack Obama for the first time gained widespread support for his argument that Europe, and the United States by extension, cannot afford Chancellor Angela Merkel's one-size-fits-all approach emphasizing austerity.

Pointedly recognizing "that the right measures are not the same for each of us," the leaders of the Group of 8 nations, at a meeting hosted by Obama at Camp David, committed to "take all necessary steps" to strengthen their economies. They said they wanted to keep Greece in the eurozone and vowed to work to promote growth in Europe, though behind the scenes disagreements remained over what kinds of stimulus policies to pursue.

"Our imperative," the leaders said in their statement, "is to promote growth and jobs."

It is by no means the first word in the growth-versus-austerity fight that has been under way for two years. Even with the future of the European economy cause in doubt, Germany has insisted that Europe's ailing economies tackle their financial problems through spending cuts, a policy that critics say has caused higher unemployment, brought Greece to the edge of bankruptcy and worsened the crises in Spain and Italy.

The leaders did concede somewhat to Merkel's position on austerity acknowledging that countries' budgets deficits had to be addressed. But they added that spending cuts must "take into account countries' evolving economic conditions and underpin confidence and economic recovery," a recognition of how much the austerity packages have dampened consumers and political confidence in Europe.

Also, in a warning to Iran, the leaders pledged to take steps to guarantee continued oil supplies after an oil embargo against Iran begins on July 1.

While Greece is not part of the Group of 8—the club is made up of the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Canada, Japan and Russia—the political and economic crisis facing Athens hovered over the meeting. Greece has been unable to form a government after two rounds of angry cost austerity measures brought down the last government, and there is now talk of bringing back the drachma and abandoning the euro.

Merkel and Obama met privately after the meeting ended. In her public remarks, the German chancellor said that growth and deficit-cutting reinforced each other, and that "we have to work on both threads, and the participants have made that clear, and I think that is great progress."

With his stars in election hell itself, a fragile US economic recovery that could easily reverse or flounder, economic crisis another turn for the worse, Obama was pushing hard Saturday for a eurozone growth package. US officials said they hoped that after the full-court press this weekend at Camp David, Merkel would be more amenable to the pro-growth argument others this month with European leaders this week at a summit to come up with specific steps to fight rising debt while spurring the economy.

The last time world leaders met to discuss the European crisis, in Cannes last November, Nicolas Sarkozy joined with Merkel to push Italy to stick to an austerity package. But the tone was different this time. Sarkozy lost his re-election bid to Francois Hollande, who came into office last week promising to focus on growth. And even before they showed up at Camp David to gang up on Merkel, Hollande and Obama had forged a new alliance at a pre-summit meeting in the White House to focus on growth.

"It is company to forget to cut back in Paris or Madrid, that might mean less business for workers in Pittsburgh or Milwaukee," Obama said to explain why the European crisis matters to the United States. He said that while European policymakers in "many complicated" ways it required coordination among multiple governments, steps his own government took to blunt the impact of the US financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, including the stimulus, can stand as an example for Europe.

In a more meeting here at this storied presidential retreat, it seemed at times as if it was Merkel—who faces stiff opposition at home to more bailouts of its neighbors by German taxpayers—against the world. Things did not seem to get off to a good start when on Friday night, as Obama greeted his guests for dinner in a warm weekend attire.

"How're you fixed?" Obama asked Merkel.

She shrugged and pressed her lips.

"Well, you have a few things on your mind," Obama said sympathetically.

Mike Froman, Obama's top adviser on international economic affairs, was careful not to publicly single out Merkel and Germany when talking to reporters after the meeting. The debate over austerity is grossly, he said, "has been going on for some time, and we welcome the evolution on that debate." He added: "I don't think it was in response to anything particular leaders will particularly positioned so much as it's been an evolution."

But a remains unclear how far Merkel will go, despite the pressure from other leaders. Merkel on Saturday was fresh from a war of words with Greek politicians over Athens's continued membership in the euro, with Greek politicians complaining that Merkel had suggested a referendum asking Greeks whether it wanted to stay in the euro, a claim that a spokesperson for Merkel has denied.

Publicly, the leaders also said they "stand ready" to call on the International Energy Agency to take appropriate action to guarantee oil supplies if prices spike. *New York Times News Service*

PRESIDENT Barack Obama (left), British Prime Minister David Cameron, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in a meeting at the G-8 summit on May 19. AFP

FACEBOOK founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan at their wedding in Palo Alto, California, on May 19. AFP

# FB's Mark Zuckerberg weds on day after IPO

SAN FRANCISCO—A day after the historic Facebook IPO, founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg spoke of his status as "married."

Zuckerberg on Saturday wed 27-year-old Priscilla Chan, his girlfriend of nearly a decade, according to a guest and hosted a repeat for the couple. The person spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

The couple married at his Palo Alto, California home in front of more than 100 invited guests who thought they would be attending a party to celebrate Chan's graduation from medical school.

Zuckerberg gave his new bride a ring he had designed with a "very simple ruby" to end an incredibly eventful week, according to the guest.

On Monday, Zuckerberg turned 28 and Chan graduated from the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, where she'd studied pediatrics.

Then on Friday, Zuckerberg took his first—and widely watched—steps in public as one of the most anticipated stock offerings in Wall Street history.

The seemingly well-orchestrated timing was largely a mirage, the guest said. The wedding had been planned for months and the couple was waiting for Chan to finish medical school, but the date of the IPO was a "moving target" not known when the wedding was set.

Attendees, including Facebook's chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, were told after they arrived that they were not meant to guests but wedding guests.

"Everybody was shocked," the guest said.

The person would not discuss the names of others who attended to protect their privacy.

Dashing his trademark hoodie and sneakers, Zuckerberg sported a dark blue suit and tie with a white shirt for the ceremony, while Chan wore a traditional white wedding dress with veil and lace.

Zuckerberg's brother Randi and included dishes from the couple's favorite Palo Alto eating restaurants.

Zuckerberg met Chan at Harvard, where he founded Facebook in a dorm room in 2004, until have been together for more than nine years.

Chan graduated Harvard in 2007 then taught science in Israel and fifth graders at the Rafael School in San Jose for two years before starting medical school, according to her profile. AP


## M Lhuillier Supports Hardworking Mothers!

By Nico Villaraza

A pair of ten mothers each received a free livelihood starter kit and fee, earns a refresher at a one- day training program designed to teach the participants processed food preparation.

In celebration of Mother's Day, M Lhuillier Philippines goes back to mothers' roots, regularly sends hundreds of free kits each. Rio Angela Pastala. The day hushes Mother's Day, the nation's leading non-bank financial services company organized the Lasting Mother's Food processing seminar-workshop held in the 4M Room of Benedicta College found along R.S. Peñaflor Street, Mandaue City Cebu.

"They live training provided by Chad Erwin Yano, and Wilfredo Cruzalta Sumaoang and the efforts of the Organizational Productivity Enhancement Committee (OPEC). Here, M Lhuillier is corporate social responsibility arm, participating mothers were taught how to make seasonal items: Lenggang-ang and Bomba. "They were also given tips and strategies on how to market and sell their products.

"We want to help in the development of the mothers making sure that there is improvement and growth in productivity and sales," according to the OPEC Node President, Ms. Ralph Benevuela. He also added that this program aims to be a first stepping stone for them to gathered enough positive feedback on the product worth of mothers, they will again conduct another seminar-workshop to reinforce their knowledge and skills on food preservation.

With M Lhuillier's growth to almost 1,000 branches strategically dispersed throughout the nation, the OPEC aware have expanded to 12 to date where 10 are in Visayas and 2 is in NCR Luzon. These OPEC groups have their respective community projects in place that cater to the prevailing needs of their remarkable communities as the they can also strive to be a provider to people in distress.

To learn more about M Lhuillier's advocacy log on to www.mlhuillier.com

Mothers in white wearing their new PE apron together with (Front row) Mr Lhuillier Chiefs Artel, Gisselle and Erwin and all OPEC officers in red.

Chad Erwin opening one of the 10 mothers during the demonstration.


# Sri Lanka president orders ex-Army chief freed

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka's president has ordered the release of his jailed electoral rival, a former army chief who led the country to US-led international pressure drove years after the end of the island's long ethnic war.

The 61-year-old former four-star general could leave prison on Monday following legal formalities, an official said on Sunday, after President Mahinda Rajapaksa marked the third anniversary of the Tamil Tigers' crushing defeat.

Sri Lanka won an end to its ethnic war unsuccessfully challenged Rajapaksa's re-election in January 2010.

The president signed the papers ordering Fonseka's release on Friday evening before leaving for Qatar on Saturday, spokesperson Bandu Jayasekera said.

"Papers will be sent to the Ministry of Justice on Monday," he said.

Fonseka's wife Anoma Fonseka said she welcomed the decision to release her husband but was unaware of the terms of the president or parties.

"I welcome the announcement but the release," she told reporters outside a prison hospital where prison authorities took her husband for treatment for a respiratory problem two weeks ago.

"I hope the president will keep his promise to release him unconditionally," she said, adding that she hoped there would be no legal impediments for him to engage in politics.

Fonseka, who pleaded guilty to charges of illegally carrying out the sentence and Fonseka may not have his civil rights to participate in elections for seven years from the time he walks out of jail.

Fonseka's Democratic National Alliance (DNA) party lawmaker and chief negotiator Tissa Attanayake said they will campaign for a complete pardon. AFP

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Bomb blast at Italian school kills girl, hurts 10

BRINDISI, Italy—A 16-year-old girl was killed in southern Italy by a bomb that exploded in front of her school before classes on Saturday in an unprecedented attack that wounded 10 others, one seriously. Officials initially suggested a Mafia hit squad was the likely suspect, but investigators later said the rudimentary nature of the bomb and the targeting of adult-girls secondary school did not point toward organized crime. There was no claim of responsibility. Reuters

### Greek election race tightens into dead heat

ATHENS—A flurry of polls on Saturday showed the race to lead Greece into a new round of crisis talks ahead of an election next month was so close it could determine whether it remains in the euro. Opinion was forced to call the race vote for June 17 after an election on May 6 left parliament divided evenly between groups of parties that support and oppose austerity conditions attached to a 130 billion-euro rescue agreed with leaders in March. The failure of the two parties that dominated Greece for decades to win a presidential majority, and the success of the anti-bailout radical-leftist Syriza party which came second, have cast shock waves through Europe. Reuters

### Anti-Nato activists accused of Obama HQ plot

CHICAGO—Three protesters arrested on terrorism-related charges ahead of the Nato summit considered targeting US President Barack Obama's re-election headquarters and the home of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, according to court documents released on Saturday. The Chicago Police Department said the three—Brent Betterly—are self-professed anarchists and members of the "Black Bloc" movement that disrupted international gatherings in the past, were arrested on Wednesday and charged on Friday with conspiracy to commit terrorism, providing material support for terrorism, and possession of explosives incendiary device. A lawyer for the three, Michael Deutsch, said undercover police officers had entrapped them by infiltrating the group and encouraging the bomb-making effort. Reuters

### US civil rights group endorses same-sex marriage

THE BOARD of the NAACP voted to endorse same-sex marriage on Saturday, pulling the weight of the country's most prominent civil rights group behind a cause that has long divided some quarters of the black community. The largely symbolic move, made at the group's quarterly board meeting in Miami, puts the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in line with President Barack Obama, who endorsed gay marriage a little more than a week ago. Claire Sue Ewing, it is likely to be viewed as both a statement of principle and a statement of support for the president's position in the middle of a closely contested presidential campaign. All but two of the organization's board members, who include many religious leaders, backed a resolution supporting same-sex marriage, according to people told of the decision. New York Times News Service

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Gabuco world champ /A27

# SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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# Lady Altas gain V-League semis

By Jasmine W. Payo

DRAWING a huge game from its Thai import, Perpetual Help outlasted University of St. La Salle in a grueling five-setter, 25-24, 19-25, 16-36, 26-28, 15-11, yesterday to reach the semifinals for the first time in the Shakey's V-League at Filoil Flying V Arena.

What giant player Peraphonsel Bamburg fired 29 points, including five blocks and five match-clinching spikes in the dwindling fifth-set where the Lady Altas overhauled a two-point deficit.

"We were lucky," said Perpetual coach Mike Hultzel.

But more than luck, the Lady Altas showed the composure needed against the Bacolod-based Lady Stingers who were also vying for a crucial win to keep their own semifinal bid alive.

Sarayba delos Santos also drove by amassing 17 points for the Lady Altas, while April Ilarde and Jane Diaz had 14 points each.

"This is our first time in the semis and I'm sure it will boost our players' morale," said Hultzel after the Lady Altas secured third place with a 4-1 record.

In the second game, Jeng Rumire unloaded 37 points to power San Sebastian to another five-set thriller, 20-18, 19-25, 25-16, 21-25, 15-5, over the Enrerra University.

Rumire delivered almost half of the Lady Stag's points in the deciding fifth frame where they raced to a 9-1 advantage.

Joy Benito also had 22 markers for the Lady Stags, who secured at least a semifinal playoff slot with a 3-2 record.

Rumire's impressive output tied the second highest individual score in league history, just behind the record 38 Rowena Rombaoa of NU in 2010.

Perpetual joined early semifinalists former and University of Santo Tomas, which were both gunning to preserve their unbeaten streak at press time last night.

In action next, by 11, La Salle skipper Charmaine Mayable broke the 12-12 tie in the fifth set, before the Lady Altas wrapped it up with a Shyrra Calubaza ace and a Kimberly smash.

Jocelyn Gonzaga paced the Lady Stingers with 20 points and Dirty Ortañez and Beauty Daculla scored 11 each.

The Lady Stingers, a surprise third placer last year, dropped to 2-3. With a report from Rudolph Lumagui

JOYCE Quijano of University of St. La Salle and Sandra Delos Santos of Perpetual Help battle at the net in yesterday's Shakey's V-League match at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan. The Lady Altas finally nailed the victory that moved them into the semifinals.

WOMEN'S TOP 3 Claireniere Dolar, Lyneisa Moreno and Jhonnylo Escota pose with gymnastics head Cynthia Carreon.

# Quevedo, Dolar rule PNG aerobics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHRISTOPHER Quevedo needed little time to shake off his rust while Claireniere Dolar delivered as expected as they mined the senior aerobics events of gymnastics in the POC-PSC National Games yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Quevedo only had a few days to practice as he was busy finishing his education degree at Philippine Normal University, but he still proved worthy of the gold medal after amassing 20 points.

The 21-year-old Quevedo, from Tandag, Surigao del Sur, beat former teammate Lester Go, who tallied 17.5 points, while John Bay Iwanaga of Malolos City secured up third with 16.8 points.

Dolar, a senior education student at University of the East, was hardly threatened as she wowed the judges with her routine moves. She also ruled the score Suzuki Cup world sports aerobics championships in Tokyo.

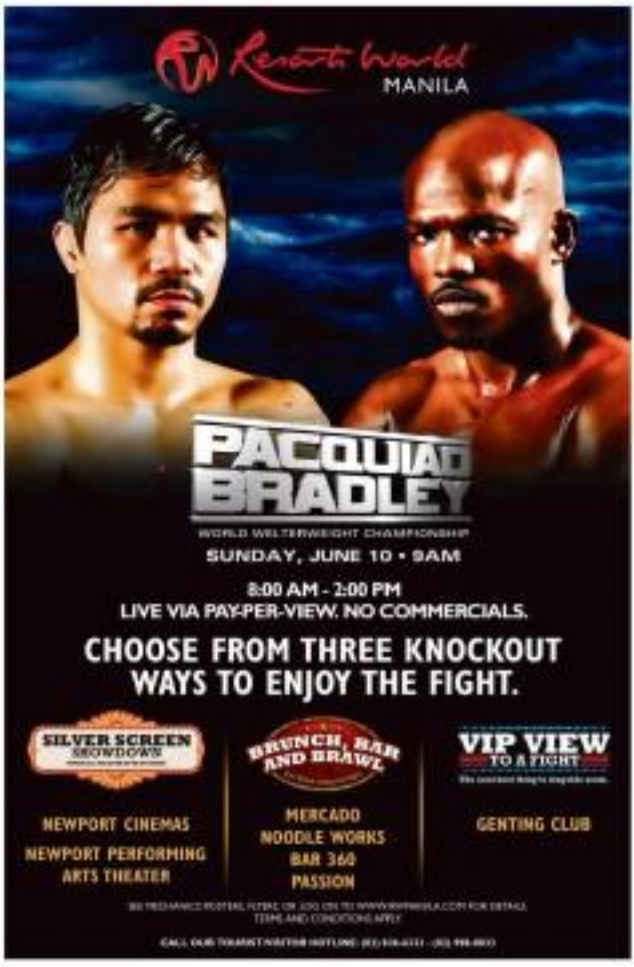
She piled up 23.10 points to repeat as champion after topping the event last year in Bacolod.

Dolar's teammate Lyneisa Moreno (20.85) and Jhonnylo Garcia (20.6) settled for the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

The gymnastics events were being held at the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines gym inside the SMAC alumni at the PNG which flies off May 25 in Binangonan, Laguna and Metro Manila.

Former national pool member Jan Frederick Bersin, 17, grabbed the boys' group 2 gold (16.8) while teammate Justin Domingo landed it over the boys' age group 1 bracket (18.5 points).

Jasmin Yu of Calamba City (15.3) and Kelly Dionisio-See of Pasay City (15.65) snared the golds in the girls' age group 2 and age group 1, respectively.



10-BALL KING

# Orcollo bags US Open title

FORMER world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo prevailed over two of his countrymen over the weekend to win the fourth US Open 10-Ball Championship (formerly Mosconi Cup) over the weekend at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Orcollo topped a magnificent week by winning 2009 World 9-Ball king Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 13-5, in the finals yesterday morning to pocket the $125,000 (about P5.45,000) champion's purse.

On the way to the final round with Bustamante, Orcollo was out to a tall-ball game against former World 9-Ball champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-8.

"I want to show through my actions that **athletic excellence can be achieved with** dedication, hard work and support," said Orcollo, who was named as a co-Athlete of the Year awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association in March.

Dear Dominguez of Mexico, Ronnie Dupalo of Greece, Mike Dechaine and Shanny Diaz of United States and Ruiz Chiang of Chinese Taipei earlier fell in their order to Orcollo.

The victory was the second in two weeks for Orcollo, who was magnified over the highly touted American Shane Van Boening, 11-4, last May 6, for the crown in the third National Final Time 10-ball tournament in California.

Next stop for Orcollo is another stab at the World 9-Ball title at the Al Sadd Sports Club in Doha on June 22 to 28.

The former fisherman from Surigao del Sur whose cities abroad are being bankrolled mainly by Bajay Pennsylvania brod Percy Ebuen, will also team up with the illustrious Efren "Bata" Reyes and former women's World 10-Ball champ Rubilen Amit in the world tourney th from June 30 to July 6 in China.

Aside from Bajay Pennsylvania, Orcollo is being supported by Mahagony Cafe-Oil, BIRHOOD Corporation, Herman Sports, Accel, B-League Corp., the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines and the Quezon City government headed by Mayor Herbert Bautista, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte and Rep. Mouwag R. Castillo.

DEMMIS Orcollo enjoys his second consecutive title in the US at the expense of compatriot Francisco "Django" Bustamante. ALEXIS SOM FILE

# Panganiban eyes World Slashers plum today

UNBEATEN ousters with 4 and 3.5 points apiece and the 3 pointers from Group B will finally decide today the championship of the 2012 World Slashers Cup 2 & Cash Invitational Derby at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Mayor Jose Bagtasbalas hunts to the overwhelming favorite with his three ousters all within striking distance of the crown.

His United Pioneers Guides 7 Hing Sayo 30-ousty fielding Machinegun Brewers from brewster Ronald Bumedien of Baguio, is unscathed with 4 points while his two other ousters—Ang NCIP Activists Ma and Ang WCIP Pinay Lion—have cornered 3-ouly, 1-three dares.

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Also in front with 4 wins each are Team Legaspi Empire fans (ALS/Wheel), lawyer Jon Mendoza (PTE-PAO, Lito Cay (Eastallion CC), former Congressman Claude Bautista (OIC-ARC) 11, Manila Bingco (MBB Mango) and Thunderbird Reserves Challenge champion Jerry Pi (Since Birdland) with winning finishes.

Cockfights Magazine publisher Glenn Sy is also in contention with his entry King Zild ousting 3.5 points and another entry Aldrich Sanchez, with 3points.

Also still in the fight with 3 wins and 1 draw is Nelson Uy & Judge Brando DEW Red Diandy.

Defending champion Hey Briones may still get his third consecutive title if his entry Spartacus ALJ 19-Blue, with 2 points, is successful in its four assignments tonight and if all the leaders suffer just a loss each.

Also with 3 wins out of 4 fights are Bong Valle/Tommy Armada/Jomar Balmonte (NAV Musician Association), Barney Velasco (Cebu Brown), Jeffery B. Abaya (Ayl-Love Yan Mo (DAV-MMM-HR) and the partners Teng Bahala and Major Jerry Dalmares (San Isidro Laborers and JP TR AAU).

## Mile Checkmate classes open

MEGAKNIGHTS the Manila Corinthian City, Bagumbuhi in Cagayan and the PTC Carriage Mandaluyong School in Parang, Marikina will be among the nine hosts of the Mile-sponsored Dominoes summer clinics starting tomorrow.

This chess education and play activity for beginners and intermediates will be held for three consecutive days, with the following schedules: Manila Corinthian, from 9 to 11 a.m. for Expos at Upper Ground mezzanine; Bagio Mile Cagayan, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the second floor of Hapit Lane area; and PCDMS, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for inquiries, call 09329283791 or 09393788888.

# Baby Tams, Robins gain FCBL semifinals

FAR EASTERN University and Mapua Cardinals booted their respective rivals at the close of the elimination round Saturday to complete the semifinal cast in the FCBL-Foreign Cup at the Ruel Rosario Gym in Quezon City.

The Mapua Red Robins, getting significant numbers more from Sonny Coperado, downed University of Santo Tomas, 70-61, while the Baby Tamaraws found on the brilliant all-around performances of Rolland Jerome to whip reigning UAAP champion National University, 79-72.

For their crucial plays, Coperado and Jerome emerged as Foreign Player of the Game winners.

With its win, FEU finished the eliminations tournament also sponsored by Smart at No. 3 with a 9-3 card.

Mapua wound up tied with second and UE for fourth at sixth places at 6-6, but the Red Robins claimed the fourth spot due to the tiebreaker over the other contenders for the Elite 4.

UE has to the point opener.

The Baby Tams, thus set up a Final Four showdown with reigning Tiong Lim champion Chiang Kai Shek Col-

Game 1 Scoreboard (pp. 22)

lege while the Red Robins will take on defending champion Hope Christian High School in the other semifinal. The one-game face-off is set tomorrow, also at the Rubbercoast gym in Quezon City.

Hope Christian closed out its campaign on a high note by edging Chiang Kai Shek College, 72-68.

Steven Silvester ended its campaign with a bang by outhaving Adamson, 68-65.

# Toby's tennis: Talatayod, Capadocia sisters wax hot

TOP SEED Chris Talatayod continued to trample his rivals in Boys' 18-under division while the Capadocia sisters, led by twins Nicholas Jade, outmanned their rivals for the weekend in the Nike's Sports PLDT Smart Foundation 11th Annual Summer Tennis Festival at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center courts.

After downing a first-round bye, Talatayod, 17, whipped Kyle Martin Bungay, 6-0, 6-0, and Jolando Amancio, 6-4, 6-1, to forge a quarterfinal clash with Andrew Joshua Cano.

The No. 8 seed Cano stunned Matt Ervin Concepcion, 6-2, 6-2, and Prince Salvacion, 6-3, 6-0, in the Philippine Tennis Association Category 2 tournament that dangles ranking points.

Setting the biggest upset so far in the competition event was unseeded Andrew Rodriguez, who pulled the rug from under No. 2 Elvis Lopez Jr., 6-2, 7-6 (5). Rodriguez will now take on No. 10 Jeremiah Lamzon in the quarterfinals.

Clashing in the other quarterfinal pairings are third-seeded Haldeen Gerga against No. 5 Ramone Rijk Joseph and fourth-seed Joel Coloma versus No. 7 Jim Oliveros Jr.

In the distaff side, No. 1 Marian Jade Capadocia, 13, lived up to her billing, sweeping Genevieve Cacete, 8-0, 6-0, to arrange a quarterfinal clash with No. 6 Ramoncar Mae Ramos, who routed Isabella Mendoza, 6-1, 6-0.

With her rivals failing to throw up, Jade Charlize Capadocia made it straight to the Last 8 against No. 5 seed Mailee de Guzman, who trounced Patricia Diaz, 6-3, 6-0.

INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez receives her tablet division trophy and other prizes from DATS Movers president Fida Ang and chair Greg Tu. Singapore Airlines GM Andrew Bodiman (second from left) also presented her a symbolic ticket for her trip to Australia.

MERCEDES TROPHY

# Duavit leads PH Asian Final cast

MICHAEL John Duavit turned in a net six-under par 66 for a solid 42 Stableford points to capture the Division A title, next to Jeremiah Lampas and Rother Cris oded on narrow victories in Division B and C, respectively in the seventh Mercedes Trophy National Finals Saturday at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Duavit, a former Ateneo golf teammate, edged out advertising executive Victor Tanjuaco's 42, Lampas had a +13 in spread pars Ricardo Bermudez 20's 42, and Cruz, with five pars overall, won on countback over Edwin Cantos in the one-day tournament organized by CNET Motors, Inc.

In the ladies' division of the event, which boasts more than 200 Mercedes-Benz owners and guests, Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez moved over Korean Jung Cinco-Kim with her lower handicap and more pars after they tied with identical 72s.

Prieto-Romualdez, a 9-handicapper, had more pars with 13.

As champions in the National Final, sponsored by PLDT, Shell, Singapore Airlines, Seaboard Eastern Insurance, Aurora and TW Steel, Duavit, Lampas, Cruz and Prieto-Romualdez will spearhead the Philippine contingent to the Mercedes Trophy Asian Final in Australia in August.

The runners-up—Benjamin Bermudez and Cantos—will also be heading Down Under with the PH squad, which will be headed by CNET Motors president Willy Ang as delegation head and SW director Gary Cordero as captain.

Each member of the PH delegation will receive a SW Steel timepiece, Aurora shirts, and a personalized golf bag.

## Celtics-Spurs finale: You wish?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

IT'S DOWN to the Final Eight in the NBA playoffs and the possibility no matter how improbable and possibly unthinkable for fans, of Boston and San Antonio meeting in the Finals is there.

You can actually hear your orange children and the rest of the young NBA fans worldwide demanding your instant NBA WANT happen. Dreaming. The stars aligh. No wins. It's got to be Lebron and Lebron. Dwayne and Kevin (they call them by their first names, of course).

Any of the duo they prefer, because they collaborate and renovate. The Celtics and the Spurs have both their loyalists.

Besides, as much as the NBA hopes to have a superstar matchup in the Finals that will help erase the stigma of the recently extended season because of the lockout.

They need their rBasis now more than, to thrill this generation of video game playing, high flying wannabes who love the game with a passion.

But it could happen.

The Spurs are reeding the young Clippers a lesson and head, 3-0, in the Western semifinals. The Celtics were lost they face the reborn of the Oklahoma Cabers series where Kevin Durant and company are up 2-1.

In the East, Boston and Philadelphia are tied 1-1 of the weekend in two games apiece. The winner of that series faces the victor of the Miami Heat-Pacers showdown, where the Pacers lead 2-1.

The Celtics and the Spurs are using every ounce of their playoff experience to eke out wins. They are no longer saying clichéses such as one fround for Boo-Mangoes explains. "Rajahnes calm ang mga rattled eh. (Their opponents are their fears)."

Don't take they are the team opponents to the lab to erase for each other's shortcomings against the speed and athleticism of their youthful opponents.

Check out how was pleated veterans are approaching their playoffs.

Here, Kevin Garnett, in most sequences, repeatedly takes a look to retirement leader, Garnett is talking to mumbling encouragement to himself or his teammates. Teaming, of course, is not allowed but Garnett is that kind of athlete who needs to talk it out. That's releasing some and pumping adrenalin at the same time.

Garnett is the last line and probably (as the movie "Men in Black" says) the only defense against the offense. He's asking his teammates to take no line back and come together to get the job done.

* * *

Here at home, we don't like our stars talking or emoting too much. But many have done it with splendid like when Robert Jaworski would insist to no end up the ground in admonishing Ca' arnold gramp his the after a younger one for fumbling.

Nowadays, Gary David provides no emotional mask when he looks at his hands, still smarting after a basket.

We insist to debut stay stars with a dash of laidback demeanor which is part of their charm and conversations. We are this in James Yap and Larry Fonacier whose game faces hardly change no matter what the weather is on the hardwood.

We like our stars confident but not cocky.

* * *

The Spurs' the Duncan, the big-fundamental, bulk in that detail. He is all business on the court, nailing jumpers or faking off opponents with up-and-under moves.

What's true 'bout' him having has two points is two points and Duncan often gets those points play chances after losing fouled. Duncan is all focus as he tries to be the rock of this veteran band of heroes.

The Celtics and the Spurs in the finals? Yeah, but look-see it could happen.

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TEAM EFFORT The winners of the first Aging Cup Age-Group Tennis Championships show their trophies in the company of sportsman Rep. Patrick Antonio in yesterday's awards rite at the Brookside Hills Tennis Club in Cainta, Rizal. From left, Norman Baquia, Alphin Tabuyad, Miko Hizon, Chloe Mae Saraza, Lara Hagedorn, Ralph Antonio, Antonio, Irene Cuenco, Janina Lay-Agot Santos, Vince Andrew Bautista and Miguel dela Paz.

# Lyceum rips Miriam in Sandugo caging

THE OPENING Lady Pirates overwhelmed Miriam College's high school squad, 98-37, to top their eliminations stint in women's play of the Sandugo-Collegiate Basketball Development League.

LPU doubled the game as early as the first quarter, cruising to a 24-4 lead en route to tubing the 9-1 win-less record of College of St. Benilde.

The Lady Pirates will regroup a twice to beat Soutwhere they battle the Generals of Lady Bulldogs in their semifinal duel Wednesday at Trinity University gym.

St. Benilde and Perpetual remained the Eastern 4 will clash in the other semifinal on Friday at San Juan gym.

In men's play, the NU Bulldogs crushed the St. Benilde Blazers, 77-51, for its seventh straight win. The Bulldogs, with a twice-to-beat bonus, will face Ics 4-0.

No. 2 Informatics will try to end the first finals day against St. Benilde after the Lyceum-National fi game.

# Unibikers trip Sharks; Bulls clobber Dolphins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MIAA: Ilhan drove home Bryan Londres in the bottom of the first extra inning to lead Dimasupot to an 8-7 victory over hard-to-fault defending champion Manila yesterday and a share of the lead in the Baseball Philippines Series 9 at the Clark Field Diwalo Grounds.

The Unibikers lost a 6-4 lead after six innings to the Sharks tallied with a three-run burst in the seventh but caught up to the rest Imore with a single run, 7-all.

The slash sets in nine innings and Dimasupot—with their starting and the Cebu Dolphins, who bowed to the Batangas Bulls, 9-2, in another match played on a nearby pitch.

Alabang downed Taguig, 5-4, in the other morning game and improved to 4-3.

Nadito Cojuangco was the winning pitcher for Batangas, tossing two-hits and two walks while striking out nine in three innings, where the Bulls produced seven runs.

The Dolphins counted the services of lefty ace Joseph Orillana.

Raoul Rosales gave up seven hits and seven runs in the first three innings, prompting manager Saki Bautista to experiment with Alphie Ito Tanney, Christian Magbanoy and Ignis Gerona to no avail.

Alabang managed to stop Taguig's solid offense in the first inning and pitcher Laurence Ruiz held sway with three strikeouts, one walks and one hit in 4 2/3 innings.

Irvin Tinsson was the losing pitcher for the Heroes, yielding 13 hits and five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

# Gabuco world champ

## Captures Aiba women's light flyweight gold

QUEBE JANCENG, China—Josie Gabuco ignored the hoots and thunderous cheers of the hometown crowd for her opponent Xu Shiqi, then backed out a dazzling win in the light flyweight finals of the Aiba Women's World Championships Friday at the Olympic Sports Center here.

Gabuco rolled in the first three rounds, 1-2, 3-5, and 7-8, before breaking the hearts of the Chinese fans with a stronger finish that resulted in a 10-9 decision over Xu.

"It was like fighting thousands of opponents," said the 25 year-old single mother of a five-year-old boy in Filipino. "The crowd definitely got to me at first, as I was very cautious and tried to come up with an antidote to my dirty opponent."

The wily Xu, who tied up the Puerto Princesa boxer several times, dropped in the consecutive rounds at 0 the way wrestled down. The lady Hungarian referee, however, was wise to the antic and eventually issued a warning to the Chinese boxer in the third round.

(CSB) Gabuco (right) throws a jab at Chinese foe Xu Shiqi in their light flyweight gold-medal match in the Aiba world championships.

Gabuco then started applying pressure on her opponent, attacking damaging straights to the head and uppercuts to the side of her opponent's body.

The Filipina finally trapped the backpedaling Chinese in a corner and connected with several hits that scattered four of the five judges to give the nod to Gabuco in the fourth round. The judges ended the fifth round drawn.

Team manager Rainier Penon was in tears when the decision was announced.

"No one deserves it more," said the AIBA international technical official. "Josie worked long and hard despite personal tribulations, including the sudden loss of her mother just year after a brief struggle with cancer."

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Ricky Vargas was euphoric.

"We in #bap are happy for Josie and our sakuer fans," said Vargas. "To have had a pair in the making of the Filipina world champion is a privilege. As our chair, Mr. Manny Pangilinan keeps reminding us, we would like to change the lives of our athletes for the better."

The other members of the team were bemen Allen Kims, upset and bloody, Perezes, coaches Elias Brizuela Jr. and Mitchel Martinez and AIBP executive director Ed Picson.

OLYMPIC BOOST: Filipino Japanese judoka Tomohiko Hoshina (fourth from left) is assisted by Philippine team chief of mission Monte Lopez in wearing the national team jacket during a visit to the Philippine Olympic Committee office earlier this week. With them are (from left) trade president David Carlos; Japanese coach Yoshiro Sato, Hoshina's mother; POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros; head trainer Rolan Llamas and nine-time SEA Games ruble John Baylon. Hoshina is one of the seven athletes who have already made it to the PH Olympic squad which is backed by ICTSI, Bank of Philippine Islands and Mizuno.

# Summerskate 2012 fires off at SM MoA

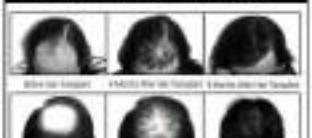
SKATERS from all over the country plunge into action starting today in the 12th Summerskate 2012 at SM Mall of Asia and SM Southmall rinks.

The four-day competition featuring some 130 skaters will be open to the public.

The competition will be staged under the Ice Skating Institute (ISI) system.

For inquiries, call 556-0400 or visit www.summerskating.com.

PERMANENT AND NATURAL HAIR



PINEDAHAIR CLINICS



SPORTS

Duhrer hangs on with a 69

# Thunder push Lakers to the brink; Spurs up

LOS ANGELES—Russell Westbrook scored 18 of his 37 points during a stirring fourth-quarter comeback, and Kevin Durant added 31 points and hit the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 13.7 seconds left as the Oklahoma City Thunder seized control of their NBA second-round series with a 105-100 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 4 on Saturday.

Serge Ibaka scored 14 points for the second-seeded Thunder, who took a 3-1 series lead and moved to the brink of their second straight trip to the Western Conference finals.

Oklahoma City improved to 7-1 in the postseason with a tenacious rally on the second night of back-to-back games against the Lakers and Kobe Bryant, who scored 30 points in Los Angeles' fifth loss in seven games overall.

The Thunder finished Game 4 on a 22-8 run, punctuated by Durant's 3 points and run-late free throws from Jeremy Lin, who had 12 points.

Game 5 is Monday night in Oklahoma City.

Earlier, the San Antonio Spurs rallied from 23 points down to beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 95-86, and take a commanding 3-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Tim Duncan scored 23 points, Tiny Gallon 19, Jordan Hamilton 14 and Matt Bonner hit 13 to help the top-seeded Spurs win their 17th game in a row and rise to 7-0 in the playoffs.

Blake Griffin had 28 points and 16 rebounds, and reserve Mo Williams added 19 points for the Clippers, who close some deficits with their best rebounding effort of the playoffs. Reggie Evans' 16 rebounds were his most since he had 17 in Game 4 of the first round against Golden State. His team has now rallied from a 0-3 deficit to win a series.

Playing with a left hip injury and a sprained knee, Griffin missed just three shots in the first half, when he scored 20 and the Clippers led by 24. Slowed by a strained right hip, Chris Paul finished with 12 points and 11 assists after two previous games of double-digit scoring.

After a quiet first half in which he scored eight points, Duncan helped the Spurs extend the third quarter when they outscored Los Angeles 26-5.

The Spurs took their first lead during a 23-3 run on a fadeaway jumper by Duncan, who scored nine points in the outburst that put them ahead for good. Danny Green added seven on and 3-pointer for The Clippers' defense completely faltered and they piled up state-of-the-art nine on the offensive end. AP

OKLAHOMA's Kevin Durant (right) goes around Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant in Game 4. REUTERS

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## And he's got another at Preakness

BALTIMORE—Kentucky Derby champion I'll Have Another won the $1-million Preakness Stakes on Saturday to remain on course for the Triple Crown, the greatest prize in US thoroughbred horse racing.

It has been 34 years since the last horse, different breed, owner the three classic races, but I'll Have Another has the chance to join the sport's elite if he can win the Belmont Stakes in New York on June 9.

Ridden by Mexican Mario Gutierrez, I'll Have Another was down Bodemeister in the shadows of the wire to win by a neck.

"It's just kind of surreal," said IHA Inc co-owner's jubilant trainer Doug O'Neill. "Going into today I thought the horse was a really, really good horse. And after today, he's proven that to a great horse."

Gutierrez rallied the horse running from outside the entire race, galloping wonderfully to fourth place along the backstretch. The favorite lived down to one of Pharrell Alley inched up to third while leaving the the race before finding another gear with a lengthy lift to challenge Bodemeister.

Gutierrez, 25, pumped his fist after I'll Have Another crossed the finish line.

Greatest Gear, second for much of the race, finished third in front of a record crowd of 121,309 at Pimlico Race Course. Reuters

## Djoko nips Federer, duels Nadal next

ROME—Top-ranked Novak Djokovic edged Roger Federer on Saturday in yet another meeting with rival Rafael Nadal in the Italian Open final.

The defending champion at the Foro Italico, Djokovic beat Federer, 6-3, 7-6 (4). Two-time winner Nadal ousted fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, 7-6 (6), 6-1, in the other semifinal.

"We're both physically fit and both and ready to deliver our best tomorrow," Djokovic said. "We have a great rivalry. He's the player I've played the most against in my career and there are no secrets. It's going to be a good fight. It would be good for both of us to get that trophy before Paris."

The French Open, the only Grand Slam Djokovic didn't win last year, begins next weekend.

Maria Sharapova defeated rising German player Angelique Kerber, 6-3, 6-4, and will clash her title against French Open champion Li Na. The Chinese player advanced after Serena Williams withdrew shortly before their semifinal with a lower back injury. AP

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# BUSINESS

# New investors to beef up Wendy's capital

## Proponents to expand burger chain's reach in PH

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By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PADO family, which operates the Wendy's hamburger chain in the Philippines, is finalizing a deal that will allow it to take on a new strategic partner to boost its restaurant business and take advantage of rising income levels in the country.

Wengfeld Corp. is now set to wrap up talks with the group of Michael Kho, former Dairy Fruit Philippines general manager, for a capital build-up program.

The programmers are soon only waiting for the approval of Wendy's International in the United States, two sources familiar with the transaction told the business.

One source said the deal would give the 26-year-old Wendy's franchise in the Philippines an enterprise value of about P1 billion.

Another source said the transaction would allow the Kho-led group to acquire 30 percent of the business.

The capital build-up program will allow Wendy's to scale up operations in the Philippines.

At present, the burger chain has 31 branches nationwide.

Wendy's is "working to be a major player" in the Philippines, one industry source said, adding that the capital build-up program will "has to be chummy" the Americans."

Wengfeld founder Jose Pardo, former trade and finance minister and now chair of the Philippine Stock Ex-

MORE INVESTMENT PAGE B2

### INDICATORS

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**
May 18, 2012
**43.250**

**STOCK MARKET**
May 18, 2012
**137.6**

**Stocks expected to remain vulnerable in week ahead**

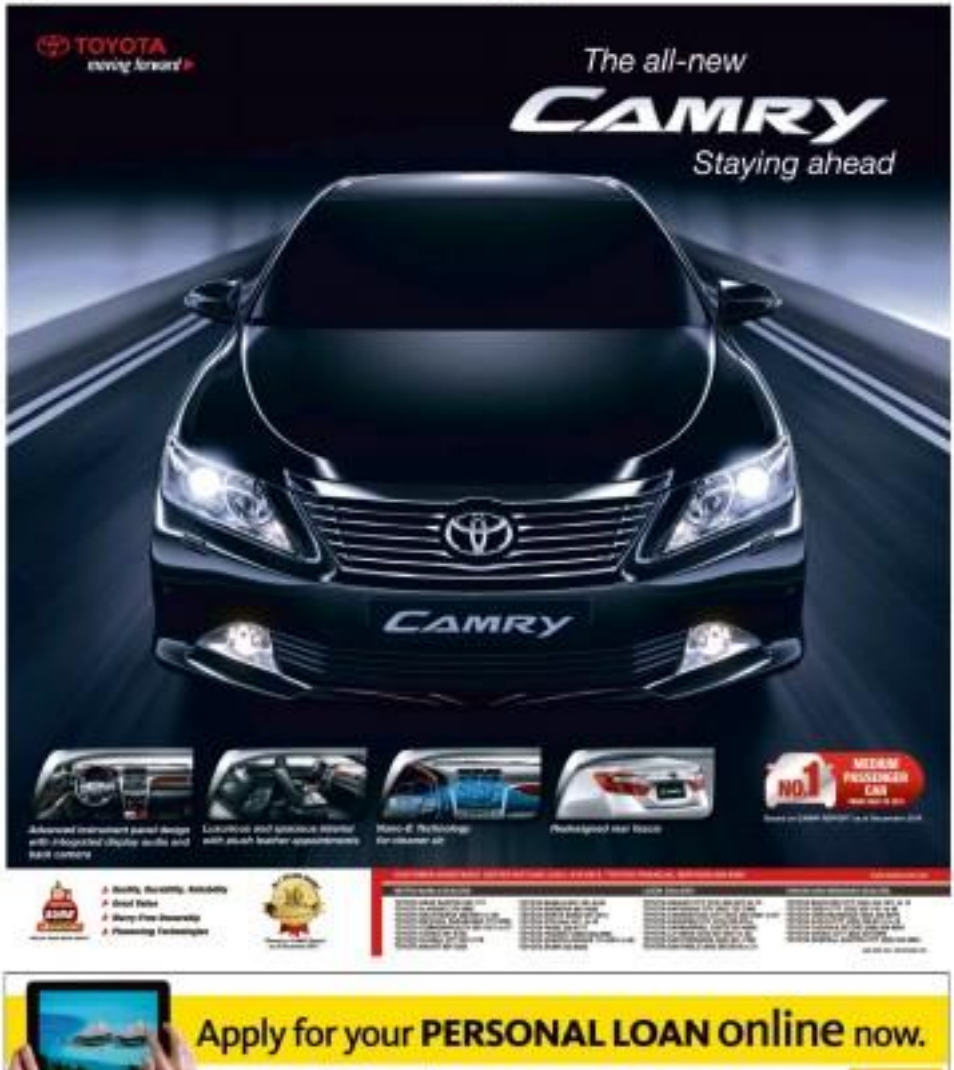
THE STOCK market this week is expected to remain vulnerable to volatile developments abroad.

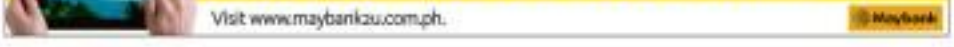
Last week, the main index Philippine Stock Exchange plunged by 5.4 percent, or 215.12 points, to close at 3,878.43 on Friday as a fiscal contagion threatens to break up the euro zone.

"Investors might [remain] face 'wait-and-see' mode prior to upcoming its global equities, until the political picture in Greece clears. Supply might still run high on renewed concerns, given the PSEi's 5.4 percent decline from a peak of 5,329 [on May 4] to 4,878 [on May 18]," said Freya May Natividad of 2TradeAsia.com.

"The new, opposition-led regime might be highlighted, especially those that glide well with uncertainties," she said.

PHOTO B2



# The sore thumb

## Biz Buzz

*By the staff*

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MUSTARD Seed


THE BOMBARDIER pastor-ship between San Miguel Corp. and the Lucio Tan group in flag carrier Philippine Airlines has taken off smoothly with PAL-ter people described as "very supportive" of, and "receptive to" with, the change in management control and the proposed changes in processes.

Ironically, what's shaping up like a new chapter in Tan-Gokongwei rivalry in the airline industry started with initial meetings ranked of lack of enthusiasm, and even some sort of resistance to the new honors, according to our reliable properties.

According to industry sources, San Miguel people tasked to review the processes of the budget carrier were surprised with the unpalatable treatment from the helpful Expressjet officials. Despite announcing for a big bulk of the fleet of the soon-to-go-wing, Philippine Express was operating as an autonomous republic and that those "shirtless" would like her to remain so.

The "bureaucracy" could only deserve that because airplane Expressjet had been given much leeway to be able to compete with Cebu Pacific, its people were used to doing things their way and hesitant to seek or accept new guidance.

Because that, long, the new airline CEO, has a course given send that PAL would return to profitability in a year's time. It has turned out that the smaller airline operation—which is certainly has to piggyback on PAL's balance sheet for its survivability—could be a bigger challenge. *Boris C. Dumlao*

### 'Cool carrier'

GENERAL manila after receiving its first aircraft—and operating them on domestic routes where they were endorsed—Air Asia Philippines will finally be able to use them for international flights.

Indeed, the local unit of Malaysian budget carrier Air Asia Berhad will begin its regular flight in Manila Lumpur service starting June 9.

That was made possible after Air Asia Philippines inaugurated its domestic network Davy Boy Gokongwei, Mauro Dandiwaras and Mikee Romero, in partnership with its Malaysian parent) finally received its clearance to operate from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

According to our source, Air Asia Philippines' Kuala Lumpur service will soon be followed by a Clark to Hong Kong service.

Under the ICAO's approved license, Air Asia Philippines will be assigned the airline code "8V" (the "DF" or "DH").

As far as flight callsigns for air traffic control radios are concerned, however, the airline is a newcomer and, as such, can no longer touch PAL's "Philippine" tag as "Philippine 102, ready for takeoff..." or "Cebu."

In fact, the duty originally requested callsign—"Pilot Asia"—was amended by ICAO to prevent confusion with other airlines flying registered as "Pilot."

Not to worry, for now assigned callsign... "Coal Red"... is ... well ... cool. *Dennis L. Lucio*

### David vs Goliath

CARLSBAD, Tex. of Pronuclo. Inc., who came to prominence for being involved in the supposed 31 billion dollar deal in Pagcor, is embroiled in another legal tussle, this time involving her disabled restaurant, Le Bistro Sur le Mekan City.

Le Bistro has been closed on Dec. 24, 2011 because a sewer pipe burst within the Power Place condominium, causing putrid water to leak down to Le Bistro Sur's ceiling, and down to the men's toilet and other guests on the ground floor, causing considerable damage to the restaurant.

Sur's Promulgated Specialty Shop and partner Rosalinda of the Sur's Inc. consequently terminated their lease and sought P14 million in damages from Singapore-based Prance and Neave Ltd., which manages Prance Place.

Prance and Neave has not given in to to the plea for damages and has instead demanded for the group to continue paying rent.

Sur and her partners, however, are not backing down and have threatened to even bigger damage suit to compensate for the "damage to brand equity."

Who's representing the Le Bistro group? the silver lion Lorna Patajo-Kapunan, who also represents Alfonso Severis, who is very busy a pending claim on the estate of her late estranged husband, Iggy Arroyo. *Thea Arnaiz-Dumlao*

### Sold out

THE group of tycoon Henry Sy tested a big bang of 509 billion peso dollar debut, and to cheer will be with the two-day public issuance of American pop superstar Lady Gaga starting today. Despite all the controversy surrounded by the singer in the Asian area, the tickets for the two-day concert including the premium corporate boxes are all sold out, according to SM Prime Holdings chief Finance officer Jeffrey Lim.

On the opening day (Monday) there is the expected to operate at full capacity (35,000 to 36,000 depending on the stage layout).

And because Lady Gaga is now even more famous among Filipinos than her first visit a few years back, all roads will lead to Mall of Asia. *Doris C. Dumlao*

### 'SEC supports innovation'

THE Securities and Exchange Commission wince to Bir Bir last week, saying that the new power regulator is, in fact, supportive of innovations like short-selling and securities borrowing and lending being introduced in the Philippines contrary to assertions made by some frustrated market players.

According to the SEC, it had in fact approved the rules governing short selling as early as June 2006.

The regulator issued the blame back in the Philippine Stock Exchange, saying it was the bourse that still had to finalize proposed securities borrowing and lending rules and submit them to the regulator for consideration.

The SEC also outlined a series of policies they have approved over the years, adding that it has also completed the legal framework of SEC and PSE allow the conduct of short sale and securities borrowing and lending activities."

Regulators are also working double time to release rules on exchange traded funds and real estate investment trusts, it added.

*Okay. Dante L. Lucio*

### Fund raising

PEREZ Pemedium was a surprise addition to the MSCI Small Cap Index. But even before that, it has gotten a lot of attention due to lottery than expected prospects for to gas exploration project in Benito Basin known as Service Contract 74 and potential partnership with Chinese biggest offshore oil and gas producer, China National Offshore Oil Corp.

So is the company willing to sell new shares to the public?

Short answer: Yes, but not now. Perez Pemedium has got its eyes set for a $70-million drilling work program through August 2013 at PSP level and at the Unlisted Forum Energy level. On what shape and from that will take, we don't know yet," said PSP chief Manuel V. Pangilinan.

If the exploration project get deeper and more expensive, that's when the company would have to look at other options, those, the talks with CNOOC.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN and Ruby Rance—who has a 49-percent stake in EC 72—have not spoken yet since the latter's public rebuke of the former's meeting with the Chinese. *Boris C. Dumlao*

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# Stocks expected to remain vulnerable

Turn to page B3

The strategy for now would be to trade cautiously and within a range, Bautista said, adding that immediate support would be at 4,800 and resistance at 4,900-4,950.

Where the PSEi is heading this week will be determined by events in Europe, said Mario Aclipen Nantes of AB Capital Securities.

"With the uncertainty whether Greece will stay or leave the European Union, its impact will definitely create another ripple effect [affecting] global markets and economies," he said. The European Central Bank has already announced it will decentralize providing liquidity for Greek banks. The withdrawal of this financial support might spell the demise of Greece if, over the weekend, a solution is not made, we may find ourselves dealing further," Nantes said.

She said the PSEi's week-long pullback was due to the correction the market had been waiting for after its sharp rally in the first quarter. *Boris C. Dumlao*

# New investor to beef up Wendy's capital

From page B1

**Adboard-dti United in Upholding Consumer Welfare Protection**

The Advertising Board of the Philippines and the Department of Trade and Industry tackled consumer protection issues during the Adboard's courtesy call held last May 14, 2012 at the DTI Office. Shown in photo are (seated from L-R): Usec. Zeny Maglaya, Usec. Merly Cruz, DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo, Adboard Chairman Rolly Magpoc (Business Mirror) and Usec. Adrian Cristobal, Jr. (Standing from L-R): TJ Burgos (Burgos Media, Inc.), Andrew Kuhn (J. Romero & Associates), Ed Acosta (KCR Billboard), Dipl Tito (Creative Juice, Inc.), Corp. Sec. Bruno Cabrera (Harcourt/Active Marketing Phils.), PR & Information Officer Margot Torres (Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.), Treasurer Aldee Castaneda (San Miguel Foods, Inc.) and Executive Director Jason Campos.

change, brought in new investors into its 7 convenience store chain operator Philippine Seven Corp., enabling it to expand its business nationwide.

Majority of Wesphil is now owned and controlled by Pardo's children. In February last year, daughter Elizabeth Pardo-Others signed a long-term agreement with Wendy's international Inc. to significantly expand Wendy's brand presence in the Philippines.

The new agreement with Wesphil—a Wendy's franchisee since 1983—calls for the development of 60 additional restaurants, which will increase the total number of Wendy's branches in the country to 75.

As part of the agreement, Wesphil will open branches outside of Metro Manila through sub-franchising.

The agreement that Wesphil had not been allowed to undertake sub-franchising for a long time.

When the elder Pardo put up Wendy's nearly three decades ago, he chose not to expand so aggressively and thus avoided bankruptcy.

This helped the hamburger chain to handle economic cycles in the country, but also limited its geographical expansion.

With Shu's group now in the picture, a more rapid growth is envisioned, especially with a new concept of franchising.

Shu is expected to ably lead Wendy's into a new era in the Philippines, having substantially grown the Dairy Free business when he was head of the government corporation.

Meanwhile, the looming buy-in deal to Wesphil reflects a growing trend of consumer-oriented companies recently attracting new investors, like in the case of leading milk maker Alaska Milk Corp. and upscale grocery operator Shoppers and Bazaars Inc. previously.

Based on Wesphil's latest regulatory filing at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the privately held company had total assets of P540.71 million as of end-2010, down from P640.3 million in equity.

Revenues amounted to P492.46 million in 2010, down by which it slashed up a net income of P9.19 million.

Over the years, Wesphil has spent about P1.3 billion in advertising alone, giving the local company an enterprise value of P1.64 billion after 28 years in operation.

In the United States, the Wendy's/Arby's Group is the third largest quick-service restaurant company with a combined restaurant system of more than 10,000 branches in the US and 26 other territories and countries worldwide.


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VIEW

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# Miners protest NCIP guidelines

## Group fears 13% of people may control 33% of PH land area

By Kim T. Dizimulo

THE CHAMBER of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said over the weekend that it would appeal with the Office of the President the delay in the implementation of the Revised Guidelines on Free and Prior Informed Consent published by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

"The simple and independent act of the NCIP complied with the long delayed release of the administration's mining policy will undoubtedly do further weaken investor confidence," the chamber said, citing excerpts from its letter to Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. summarizing the guidelines.

COMP had been calling for industry consultations while the guidelines were being crafted.

"While the guidelines, publication [last May 14], was not entirely final the country will again lose hard-fought investments larger than the P30-4 billion foreign direct investments (FDI) outflow in the mining sector in 2011, aside from delaying a number of key exploration and mining projects," COMP said.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau's mining investment target of $1 billion for 2011 was not announced, and the industry forecast of $3.76 billion investments for 2012 for gold, copper and nickel will also likely fall short, COMP said.

"In fact, several investors' working on large-scale mining projects and exploration activities are already having second thoughts on whether they will still pursue their projects or pull out from the country," COMP said. "If allowed to proceed, the impact of the Revised Guidelines will have on the mining industry in particular, and the economy in general, will be grave."

Once implemented, the guidelines "will mean that 13 percent of the population (Indigenous peoples) will control 33 percent of the total land area of the country in the exclusive of the 40 million Filipinos who have a similar right to benefit from our natural resources," COMP said.

MGB has already issued Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADTs) covering approximately 5 million hectares throughout the country. It may also release additional titles that will cover 5 million more hectares by 2013.

"This figure (of 10 million hectares) far exceeds the original concept of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act to allocate only 2 million hectares for the indigenous peoples."

COMP said the only alternative is to delay the implementation of the revised guidelines, subject to appropriate consultation and revision of questionable provisions.

Despite the revised guidelines' direct effect on all prospective explorations and mining operations in the country, the mining industry was never consulted by the NCIP during the development of such guidelines.

Xinex Marsh, miners had expressed concern over the new guidelines as a game-changing set of rules on the way permission is obtained from indigenous Peoples for mining activities.

PLDT SME Nation's Regional Base service provides internet connectivity for easier sales and inventory monitoring for Banapple, a bakery/cafe serving freshly baked pies, cakes and pastries. Picture shown Banapple owner Gil Almeda (3rd from left), PLDT SME Nation Business Head Jana Calibang (4th from left), PLDT SME Nation Area Sales head Ruelito Talinug (5th from left), PLDT SME Nation Area Sales Supervisor Vincent Kagan (far left), PLDT SME Nation Product Specialist Aldrido Montes (4th from left) and PLDT SME Nation Account Associate Sheila Bautista (far right).

### PHILIPPINE BUSINESS BANK REACHES 286% NET INCOME FOR Q1 OF 2012

By Ardith C. Dimaliparan – AFP Community Affairs

Philippine Business Bank (PBB) announced that it has achieved a net income of P442.2 million for the first three months of 2012, compared to its income for 2011 of P114.5M, without reaching a significant increase of 286%. The revenue growth is attributed to a rise in interest income from both loans and investment portfolios. Treasury business contributed substantially to the rates of fund income trading.

The Bank's total resources grew to P27.19 billion or 38.12% increment from last year's figure of P23.39 billion, while the total deposit liabilities delivered an increment of almost 30% amounting to P20.84 billion from March 2011 figures of P16.08 billion.

"Our first quarter investment reflect a strong start for 2012 as we continue to execute our business plans to sustain the Bank's growth," stated Rolando B. Antonio, President & CEO of PBB. "We are pleased to announce the opening of our three most recently inaugurated branches – at the head of Ilocos, Pangasinan at the central hub of Manila – the Jolo in Mindoro and at the go-time district of Quezon City – Congressional Avenue. This June, we are looking forward to open our fourth (4th) outlets in Kapitolyo, Pasig and Pilar Avenue, Bacolod City. We look forward to expanding our branch and distribution network in the Metro Manila area with nine more branches and five more in key provincial areas (Tagbilaran, Puerto Princesa, Lucena, Batangas and Legazpi) for this year. Currently, we have 49 branches and we target 58 more, totaling to 87 this year. The Bank has operated PCALI offices for three branches after converting ASP's approval. This, in part, shows the Bank's financial strength and our shareholders' commitment to the business. We are confident that we will be able to share the businesses [SBUs] and local residents why Philippine Business Bank should be the basis of choice of the SMEs."

This move would make the Bank on track with its objectives for this year and will help achieve the Bank's commitment to raise the penetration of Filipinos most especially its target market like the SMEs as PBB aims to be the preferred bank of the said operators.

He also further stated, "We are proud of our stability as a financial organization. While our aim as an asset is our fund base this participants, the income was primarily related to loan client relationship which is being monitored closely. The Bank remains committed to sustained as evidenced by its good financial status."

# BUSINESS

## Wage hike seen having minimal effect on inflation

By Michelle V. Remo

THE HIKE in the minimum wage in Metro Manila is not expected to have a major effect on consumer prices in the country, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the increase in the daily wage by P30 had been taken into consideration when the BSP made its inflation forecasts.

The government expects inflation, or the rate of increase in consumer prices, to range between 3 and 5 percent for 2012 and 2013.

Based on latest estimates by the BSP, inflation may average at 3.1 percent this year and 3.3 percent next year.

"This [latest wage hike] is broadly in line with the wage assumptions that have been incorporated in our central forecast. We continue to expect average inflation to be within target this year," Tetangco told reporters.

According to the National Statistics Office, inflation averaged at 3 percent in the first four months of the year.

BSP, which is one of the agencies consulted by the regional wage boards in determining the appropriate increase in wages, said that the rise in workers' pay will not pose a significant inflationary threat as long as it goes with the rise in labor productivity.

## Online firm Lenddo gets support from Silicon Valley

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE-BASED online microfinance social networking firm Lenddo has received over $8 million in fresh equity from Silicon Valley investors as the company seeks to further expand its reach and capital base.

In a statement, Lenddo, which loads money to its members based on credit scores that are measured from the quality of friends users have, said new capital firms from California such as Accel Partners, Bluebeng Capital and Omidyar Network, as well as Montreal-based Florin Capital and New York-based Mosaicmylife Ventures are now among the firm's investors.

"Several prominent Angel Investors like David Eilidge of Click able com, Scott Beiferman of Meetup and Barry Gilbert of SecondEdition al. so gave their financial support to Lenddo," the company said.

"We are proud to have already helped tens of thousands of Filipinos since we launched last year. With the additional investment, we will be able to improve the lives of millions of young professionals in emerging markets across the world," Lenddo co-founder and CEO Richard Eldridge said.

Using an online platform, members can their reputation on social networks like Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to build their credit worthiness and have access to financial services, such as life-improving loans.

Lenddo provides loans exclusively to the Philippines and Colombia.

## BCDA targets turnover of 192 homes to soldiers

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) targets to complete its P700 million "replication" program within the year to be able to turn over a total of 192 residential units to soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their families.

BCDA forced the turnover on Saturday following its turnover last week of the first batch of 32 newly completed condominium-type units to army soldiers and families, who were former residents of the Joaquing Crisis US Military Assistance Group property in Taguig City.

The second batch of 32 condominium units are now undergoing finishing touches and will be turned over soon, the BCDA said.

The replication program involves the construction of 32 five-storey condominium units within the AFP's retention area in Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base.

Each building has 16 residential units, while each unit has three bedrooms and a maid's quarter, comparable to the pricey condominiums in nearby areas that can be around up to P25,000 per month.

Six of the 12 buildings, which will have a total of 160 units, are being constructed at the Fort Bonifacio for the Army, while the remaining two-building, which will have a total of 32 units, are being put up by the Military Air Base for the Navy.

"The replication program is part of our commitment to give back to the military establishment in fair share of the proceeds of the BCDA's asset disposition and property development efforts as mandated by Republic Act 7227, also known as the BCDA Law," said BCDA president and chief executive officer Arnel P. Casanova.

"BCDA is honored to be able to bring dignity and honor to our soldiers by providing them with decent and quality condo units. While our nation's soldiers are away in the battlefields defending the sovereignty and security of our country, their families are secure and contented in their new homes," he added.

According to Casanova, the biggest picture shows that the BCDA has been "performing its role to the overall nation building by transforming former military camps and baseboards into virtual beehives of economic and social activities, showcasing a harmonious blend of trade and commerce and upscale residences."

The 34.5-hectare Joaquing property in Fort Bonifacio was auctioned years ago by the BCDA. Property developer Megaworld Corp., after submitting the highest bid, was then chosen by the BCDA as its joint venture partner for the property, which is on Lawton Avenue, close to Bonny Park and the Manila Polo Club.

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# Unitrade plans to put up diaper factory in PH

## Crucial to firm's expansion binge in Southeast Asia

By Doris C. Dumlao

CHEROOM Filipino entrepreneur Samuel Po, founder and head of JS Unitrade Merchandise, is mapping out a Southeast Asian expansion strategy anchored on the Philippines as a manufacturing hub.

JS Unitrade is a leading diaper distributor in the Philippines with a 26- to 27- percent share of baby diapers, a strong challenger to Unicor & Goodnite's 27- to 28-percent share. It is the dominant player in adult diapers with a 65-percent market share. It sells baby diaper brands EQ Plus and EQ Dry, adult diapers Caress and Dr. P and female hygiene pads Charmee.

### China plant remains

Po's diaper manufacturing operations in Jiangsu done in China but the products are sold primarily to the Philippine market. Hence the plant in China is now operating at close to its full capacity and given opportunities for regional expansion, Po is considering putting up a new diaper factory in the Philippines.

The new manufacturing hub will support JS Unitrade's goal of doubling its sales in the next four years to more than P10 billion from about P5.2 billion in 2011. Po said this in an interview with reporters last week at the sidelines of the signing of a manufacturing contract with Marco Polo on his upcoming hotel project in Ortigas.

### Markets tapped

Po said Unitrade recently started selling diapers in Malaysia and will soon sign a deal to enter the Cambodian market. He added that talks were ongoing for its plan to also go into Taiwan.

"We're looking into the Philippines as our base also," Po said, adding that he would soon start negotiations in Brunei and such plans this year. "(There's) no rental yet. We also have to secure some investment incentives."

"Currently China isn't competitive anymore in terms of labor. In fact, in the coastal areas, the labor cost in China is higher than in the Philippines. The only advantage in China now is they have a lot of raw materials that you can buy," he said.

Po added that the plant in China, however, would be kept as the long-term plan vis-a-vis a big volume in China.

"If we are successful in Malaysia and Cambodia, the Philippines will definitely be our base," he said.

### PH as regional base

In terms of monthly volume and measured by number of pads, JS Unitrade is currently selling more than 66 million baby diapers, four million adult diapers and 45-50 million feminine protection pads. With its annual sales of P5.2 billion, it ranks 666th among the Philippines' top corporations.

On the average, Po said his diaper business had grown by 18 percent in the last three years, outpacing the single-digit growth in the industry which suggested that his company was eating other player's market share. His forecast is that revenue would continue to grow by 20-26 percent per year thereby hitting P10 billion in the next four years.

Once the business has grown into a P10-billion concern, Po said that would probably be the time the company might consider listing on the stock exchange.

"We're waiting for the right time. If we still be able to generate the region, we'll have more value," he said.

Po recently diversified into the property business with a P3-billion investment in a five-star Ortigas hotel property to be managed by Marco Polo.

The 313-room Marco Polo Ortigas Hotel will open by the end of 2013 and will be the newest five-star hotel in the Ortigas central business district. The hotel, which is now under renovation, is located beside the Union Bank building along Meralco Avenue.

# DMCI Q1 profit up by 18%

## COL Financial first quarter net rises by 58%

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING online stockbroker COL Financial (COL), formerly Colfinvest, posted a 58-percent year-on-year increase in its first quarter profit to P130 million on the back of a robust domestic stock market and growth in customers' base.

Consolidated revenue rose by 35 percent to P203 million year on year driven by local operations, which jumped by 46 percent to P179 million. Commissions, which accounted for 73 percent of Philippine revenue, surged by 66 percent to P121 million. The Philippines accounted 88 percent of total revenue in the first quarter, from the 82-percent share for the whole of 2011.

COL operates a stock brokerage in Hong Kong.

The significant increase in COL's revenue was attributed to the strong performance of the Philippine equities market despite sideways by 17 percent in the first quarter while average turnovers picked up by 16 percent to P8 billion.

COL said it also benefited from the strong growth of its client base. It added 4,300 new customers in the first three months, bringing its total client base to more than 32,000 as of the end of March. This brought up the value of client equity to P22 billion from P17 billion as of end-2011.

The strong growth in COL's client base led to an improvement in market share which jumped to 23 percent in terms of volume of transactions in the first quarter from 21 percent in 2011, cementing the position as the top stock broker in the PSE in terms of volume.

In value terms, COL rank also improved to 7th from 8th after handling P46 billion worth of transactions.

Doris C. Dumlao

## MacroAsia income drops

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCKED-in-led MacroAsia Corp. saw its net income cut by more than half in the first quarter of 2012 over year-ago level after its main subsidiary and aircraft maintenance operations incurred losses.

In a disclosure, MacroAsia said its net income slipped to P37.07 million in January to March from P83.36 million in 2011.

It said it would have had more, if not for the growth of its in-flight catering, and airport services operations.

MacroAsia said it booked consolidated service revenue of P456 million, a 46-percent increase from year-ago level.

"Increased passenger load and flight frequencies of our affiliated Asiana carriers closed to three new airline revenue up to the first three months of 2012," it said.

"In contrast, with the reduced volume of aircraft maintenance service requirements of its base clients, our associated company reported losses revenue and showed negative first quarter end-result," the company said.

MacroAsia's aircraft maintenance operations are handled by Lufthansa Technik Philippines, a joint venture firm with Germany's Lufthansa group.

Investor presented from the firm's in-flight and other catering segment, which accounted for 68 percent of the consolidated revenue, was up by 62 percent to P309 million from P191 million. This was driven by higher load volume and passenger cases during the period.

The company said its postal handling and aviation segment followed, consolidated revenue rising 4% percent to P136 million.

In the meantime, total direct cost for the first three months reached P321 million reflecting a 46-percent increase from last year's P220 million.


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# BUSINESS

## PTT unit embarks on 5-year expansion program in PH

By Amy R. Remo

PTT PHILIPPINES Corp., the local subsidiary of Thailand's largest oil firm, is aggressively increasing its presence in the country, mainly through a planned five-year expansion program which was estimated to require P1.3 billion in investments.

In an interview with reporters, PTT Philippines president and CEO Vikasit Chawalitsawas said the company had just received the go-ahead from its parent firm in Thailand to move ahead with the expansion program.

The plan will see the construction of 75 to 80 new retail stations from 2012 to 2016. These will bring PTT Philippines' retail network to about 125 to 130 by the end of 2016, from the current station count of 50.

"We will go big in the Philippines...because we saw the opportunity. The Philippines is a net oil importing country while in Thailand, we cannot consume all our [petroleum] products," Chawalitsawas explained.

"The Philippine market will be a first priority [(effective)] of the order in the Philippines [compared to other markets]. We got the signal from our head office in Thailand to expand abroad and the Philippines is the first priority" he stressed.

The plan, he said, was to allocate a budget of about P200 million to P300 million in per up 25 stations every year from 2012 to 2016. For this year, however, PTT Philippines is expecting to surpass that target with the construction of 20 new stations. Some of the stations will be company owned while the rest may be built through franchises.

While PTT Philippines will be expanding mainly in Luzon, it will also put up some stations in Visayas, specifically in the province of Cebu.

To support its expansion program, PTT Philippines will likewise put up new tank terminals, in addition to its existing facility in Subic.

"Our problem now is that we only have one terminal. Our answer is how to expand in south of Luzon. That's why we are looking into the possibility of putting up additional terminals in the south and in the south so that we can expand more," Chawalitsawas said.

In particular, the company is considering putting up a terminal in San Fernando, Pampanga. One terminal is expected to cost more than P200 million, he added, without disclosing the proposed site for the terminal in South Luzon.

Early last year, the Department of Energy had asked PTT Philippines to continue expanding its operations in the Philippines, despite the difficulties encountered by industry players in past.

That, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras earlier said, was meant to encourage competition because "we're trying to diversify the market. We're trying to invite as many players as we can to the country. It's not just PTT. The more players, the better for us."

Encouraging PTT to expand and foster more business part of the government's efforts to diversify and widen the Philippine downstream oil industry landscape, to encourage competition which could help make fuel prices more competitive.

Since the deregulation of the downstream oil industry in 1998, there are now more 240 oil companies operating in the country, categorized as oil majors (namely Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines), new players and independent players, data from the DOE showed.

According to the DOE, the deregulation not only led to a tremendous increase in the number of industry players in various business activities, it also brought in P194.87 billion in investments/investments as of 2009.

**SUTHERLAND CARMONA**
President Aquino leans on Sutherland chair and chief executive officer Dilip Pallod discusses a point during the groundbreaking ceremony for Sutherland Carmona, the fifth site in the country of business process outsourcing giant Sutherland Global Services.

## Local stock market seen resuming climb

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S largest mutual fund group, Bank of the Philippine Island-managed ALFM Mutual Funds, says the local stock market benefiting the fresh turnout in the euro-zone and resuming its climb to new heights this year.

In the last two weeks, Philippine stocks have retreated due to the negative sentiment prevailing in the European region which had spilled over to local markets. Last week, the main Philippine Stock Exchange index declined its session weekly drop this year. It fell by 3.4 percent to 8,079.42 on Friday, on escalating risks that the euro-zone will break up.

"But we remain constructive of the domestic market given our healthy macroeconomic fundamentals. We think eyeliest stocks such as banks and property, which are expected to benefit from the low interest rate environment and improving incomes, will continue to lead the Philippine stock index to higher levels," ALFM director Maria Theresa Marcial-Javier said in a report to stockholders.

"Economic risks are playing with the external factors having a hand in shaping the domestic economy. Nevertheless, our confidence in the economy has not wavered," said ALFM chair Ramon Hernando.

"We still expect above-trend GDP (gross domestic product) growth, supported by benign inflation. We anticipate the government's fiscal and external position to continue improving. We anchor hopes on the sustained strength of remittance flows, high business process outsourcing sector growth, improved confidence in the government and on the resuming the government's commitment to fiscal prudence, and the priority given to infrastructure development," Hernando said.

Javier, who heads BPI's asset management and trust group, said in an interview after the ALFM stockholders meeting that the stock market's support level at 4,750 should hold and levels close to this barrier would be an opportunity to increase positions.

BPI asset management is sticking to its view that the PSEi would hit 5,500 to 5,800 levels this year.

"As of the end of April 2012, the Philippines is the third best performing equity market in the region, with a return of 19 percent, driven by strong liquidity flows attracted by the country's favorable growth prospects and generally strong first quarter 2012 corporate earnings. Net foreign buying [amounted to] $360 million, already more than half of the 2011 level of $1.23 billion," Javier reported to stockholders.

In her report, Javier said 2011 turned out to be a year of opportunities as well as challenges for both the economy, the financial markets and investment management industry.

"We expect 2012 to be as exciting and thought-provoking. Nevertheless, we look to the future with optimism, with our expectations strongly anchored on the resilience of our domestic economy, as we remained mindful of the difficulties that still lie ahead as we confront the challenges to the global financial markets," she said.


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## The art of brewing fresh business with Bo's Coffee

Local coffee shops are a dime a dozen, but not all can rise to prominence. Bo's Coffee is a homegrown brand that has established itself as one of the foremost names for premium coffee. Delivering its "just roasted" coffee promise, it showcases the best coffee beans sourced in the country. Started by Steve Benitez in 1996, Bo's Coffee started as an espresso bar in Ayala Center Cebu, inspired by the sidewalk cafés in San Francisco, Paris, New York, and Singapore. Now it has grown to 40 branches all over the country, offering customers a freshly brewed experience in every cup, a key secret to its success. Aside from its roasted coffee, Bo's also offers hot and cold blended coffee beverages.

Steve shares his battles. "When business was just starting, it was challenging in the first one in my community to introduce coffee in the market since coffee was not part of our social culture at that time. Nobody was buying my idea but I persisted until the market started to pick up." "As a dynamic company, we just continue what we've always done even before our competitors entered the market by finding new ways to improve overall customer experience." Not content with just delivering quality products, Mr. Benitez believes in giving quality service as well. To maximize quality, technology is key. That is why Bo's Coffee relies on PLDT Wireless, a security business solution, with tracking camera that can monitor business operations anywhere just as long as there is Internet connection. "PLDT Watcher helps us ensure business operations are running smoothly as we have a lot of stores due to open. We can observe what happens day-to-day and the PLDT Watcher's recording feature enables us to keep track of operations and spot consumer trends and preferences."

Future plans for Bo's Coffee include expansion in 100 stores with regional expansion to Southeast Asia in the drawing board. Who says that your passion can't take you places? Mr. Benitez gives this advice to budding entrepreneurs. "Invest in what you like to do. Business success comes to those who are patient, resourceful, well-informed, caring and the passionate."

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

# PH seen setting trend for electric vehicles in Asia

## Desire to protect environment expected to spur demand

By Amy R. Nuno

THE PHILIPPINES is expected to lead the way toward the widespread use of electric vehicles in the region, as it has begun implementing numerous initiatives geared toward promoting the massive use of these environment-friendly vehicles in the country.

In a statement, the newly formed Electric Vehicles Association of the Philippines (EVAP) said that the private sector's interest in e-vehicles was spurred not just by the profit potential, but also the desire for clean air and the protection of the environment.

For instance, nongovernment organization Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) started the electric jeepney (e-Jeepney) program in the country back in 2007 under its Climate Friendly Cities Program.

The Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) and PMVN Inc. then stepped in by helping the firm in locally design, fabricate, assemble and mass produce the e-jeepneys for ICSC and other markets.

Irma Garcia of ICSC had said that ICSC's Makati Green Route initiative was the first mass transport application of the electric vehicle.

"Our e-Jeepneys were also the very first to receive the LTO orange license plate for EVs and the LTFRB franchise for EVs to operate as public-utility vehicles," Garcia added.

Fredi Raquelsantos, president of both MVPMAP and PhGV Inc., added that e-Jeepneys can now be found in Pasig, Quezon City, Cebu, Iloilo, Los Baños to Laguna, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Batangas, Bulacan, Bicol region and Boracay.

"Next we continue to locally design and assemble e-Jeepneys in a wider number of passenger and diverse service operators," Raquelsantos said.

Many subsidies on the use of the electric tricycles (eTrikes) were also previously undertaken in Taguig, Siargao, Puerto Princesa, Boracay and Mandaluyong—some of which were made in collaboration with government agencies.

Power distributor Manila Electric Co., on the other hand, is showcasing the feasibility of using silhouettes and electric quadricycles (eQuads) for the shuttling needs of its employees, visitors, and customers within the Meralco compound in Ortigas.

Victory Liner, meanwhile, brought in the country's first electric bus lethal.

Collectively these are now

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# The taxman cometh

IT'S SUMMER in Metro Manila, and for the life of me, it seems as if every year is hotter than the last—thank heavens for the mist of the past week!

For many a taxpayer and tax practitioner though, summer means not just baking temperatures and sweltering days, but the all-important April 15 deadline and the season of filing and paying annual income taxes.

I remember from my years at the BIR (and in Virginia, I was once a taxman myself) I hear our "older statesmen" at the Bureau would recall that in their day, the months and weeks leading up to April 15th seemed to be the most frenetic time of the year, for everyone on both sides of the tax administration equation.

Times have changed, however, and very dramatically at that, because in this day and age, every good tax administrator worth his salt knows that the mark of success is truly a year-round effort that doesn't panic-finish or reach its peak on April 15.

Every day, millions of peso worth of taxable transactions take place all over the country, and it's the duty of the "taxman" to make sure that all the parties to these transactions pay their correct taxes due. Small wonder, then, that one of the most important functions of tax administration—conducting a tax audit—continues to be carried out long after April 15th has come and gone.

Thinking about the ubiquitous presence of the taxman in our daily lives—"The Taxman Cometh", to borrow the title of a classic play—I'm reminded of these lyrics from a song by the Beatles: "If you drive a car, I'll tax the street; If you're sick, I'll tax your seat; If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat, If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet; Cause I'm the taxman, yeah I'm the taxman!"

## Part of life

While it's a bit of a stretch to say that the BIR's going to tax our feet (and in which case our basketball players, given their shoe-sizes, would certainly have quite a hefty amount of "feet tax" to pay, on top of their income taxes), it is nonetheless true that taxes are a part of our lives, and it's always interesting to see people's reactions to this truth. A few months ago, I wrote about the whys and wherefores of paying the correct amount of taxes—as a tax practitioner and an accounting professional, it's always been fascinating to see why some taxpayers always try to find ways to reduce the amount of tax they have to pay. But while I can say that I understand why some taxpayers do try to pay the least amount of taxes as much as possible, usually by claiming as many deductions as legally possible, tax evasion—which entails deliberate and illegal efforts to elude the payment of taxes—is simply beyond the pale.

**MAPping THE FUTURE**

Jen Henry Alden Fr Aguilar

This avoidance, as most people will agree, is something of a gray area, ethically speaking. Tax evasion, however, is another matter altogether, and I'll venture to say that tax evasion, in a sense, is a betrayal of one's country and an exploitation not only of the nation's resources, but also of one's fellow citizens. Just think about it—the tax evader is able to generate wealth from operations that make use of the country's infrastructure roads and bridges, etc.), exploit natural resources, such as water, minerals, flora and fauna, and employ the services of Filipino citizens, all under the protection of the government's power and order operations, without paying a single centavo in taxes. All the while, others go to the effort of paying their taxes—to the cashiers of authorized agent banks, in fact, their taxes are automatically deducted from their wages, so there's truly no reducing the amount of taxes they pay, even if it means giving up a chunk of their hard-earned money.

Tax evasion is self-defeating on a grand scale, where the tax evader is robbing both himself and what he can keep from the country to spend on himself so he can make more money. It has no place in a democratic society—where equality should be the rule of the day, and everyone has to do their fair share of work in keeping the national economy viable, upholding peace and order in society, and preserving the sovereignty of the state—all of which every citizen does through the payment of taxes. The tax evader is the classic example of someone who wants to have his cake and eat it too—or to put it bluntly, get rich on a "free" ride. But as life will eventually teach everyone, there's no such thing as a "free" ride, and tax evasion definitely is—never, ever pays.

## Pursuing tax evaders

It is my wonder that the BIR, in recent years, has poured considerable efforts into pursuing tax evaders. Under the Aquino administration, the BIR has stepped up—very significantly—its endeavours to identify and bring tax evaders to justice. Former Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno, Jr. got the ball rolling with the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program, which was strengthened by former Commissioner Joel Tan-Torres, and is now a flagship project of current Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares. A RATE case generally begins with the issuance of a special Letter of Authority (LA) and the initiation of a tax audit, then proceeds to the filing at the Department of Justice (DOJ) of a criminal complaint for tax evasion against the errant taxpayer. In most RATE cases, the BIR's audit and investigation on the suspected tax evader that was gleaned from third-party sources, and in a few cases, the data was considered strong enough for the BIR to file a complaint with the DOJ merely two days after the LA was issued to the taxpayer. The Rate Program has seen the filing of charges against some prominent taxpayers and enterprises, and I'm sure the ripple effect amongst the corporate community is considerable indeed.

While the Rate Program focuses on legal actions against tax evaders, another BIR project works to bring across the point that if you don't pay your taxes for in some cases, if you didn't register your activities/business with the BIR), you shouldn't be doing business at all.

## Oplan Kandado

"Oplan Kandado", which was initiated by former Commissioner Siony G. Esguerra in by 2009, has seen the closure of quite a few large and medium-scale enterprises that, in most cases, were found, after a required period of surveillance by revenuers acting under the authority of a Mission Order, to be significantly under-declaring their sales/business activities. Action is taken in prima facie evidence of tax evasion. I remember how a number of businesses closed under the Oplan Kandado Program were located in some of Metro Manila's biggest shopping malls, and the litany of being closed by a team of revenuers led by the Revenue District Officer prompted their owners to pay their back taxes and declare their correct sales. Talk about "shock and awe"! I learned later that BIR payments in 2009 were almost 20% over BIR collections for 2008, and my friends in the BIR tell me that such an increase was largely due to the ripple effect of Oplan Kandado.

Whether it be the long-awaited finalization of a court case, or the embarrassing spectacle of a public closure, it's painfully clear that the consequences of tax evasion aren't pretty, and tax evaders truly have only themselves to blame for their woes. When all is said and done, no one can deny that there's a price to pay—literally and figuratively...for doing something illegal, and the Government will surely go north and nail other tax evaders. In a flat-rate, as a matter of fact, the price of criminal tax evasion with the DOJ doesn't mean that the tax audit initiated against the suspected tax evader will be discontinued. Oh no, the tax audits will definitely continue, which means that the accused tax evader will have to retain two teams of accountants, lawyers and tax experts to defend himself on the DOJ case, and the other for the tax audit. Just think about the resources that have to be funnelled into paying those retainer fees, resources that could have been used to improve company operations or ...ironically enough... pay the correct taxes in the first place!

Tax evaders, however, shouldn't give their dissemination with the Government's performance as an excuse to not pay their taxes—as the old saying goes, you can't correct a mistake with an even more serious one. What importantly then is this to think about: Anyone who doesn't contribute to the national effort to generate revenues has no right to complain about the corruption or inefficiency in government because they didn't invest in the country through their taxes. As the BIR has long been saying to the Filipino public, taxes are the people's revenue: in the country, thus, the taxes we pay give us the right to expect services from the government, and above all, to express our grievances when the government fails to deliver. Anyone who doesn't pay taxes...and worse, resorts to criminal activities to avoid paying them...has no right to complain, because they don't have a stake in the country and in law lexicon, they shouldn't have any participation at all.

## Paying taxes

So, if you want to have a say in urging the government to improve its performance, then it's only fair that you pay your taxes. Anyone who invests in something has the right to expect a return on his investments, and the taxpayer has the right to see his money well-spent in services that will make life easier for him. But if you're beaten and determined to be a tax evader, then don't be surprised if one day the BIR holds you into court, or padlocks your business—as the title of this article says, "the Taxman cometh".

It's one thing to complain about burdensome, and unfair taxes, but another to be a tax breaker.

Guess who ends up with a bigger headache?

*—The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a Senior Partner of The Tax Offices of Romero, Aguilar & Associates and member of the MAP National Issues Committee and MAP Committee on Taxation. Feedback at map@philippine-business.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>.)*

## MoneyGram Helps Youth Reconnect to School in Philippines with US$50,000 for Dynamic Teen Company Kuriton Klasrum Program

Manila (May 14th, 2012) – MoneyGram International is helping Filipino youth reconnect with education programs by providing support to the innovative Kuriton Program, or pocket classroom, offered by Dynamic Teen Company. Dynamic Teen Company received a US$12,000 grant through a collaborative effort between MoneyGram and the United Way Worldwide.

Alex Lim, MoneyGram's Country Manager for the Philippines met with Ms. Diana Pefianco, Jr., CEO and Founder of Dynamic Teen Company at MoneyGram's Manila office to celebrate the collaboration.

"Education can be instrumental in helping youth and their families reduce their hopes and dreams," said Lim. "MoneyGram is focused on providing youth more opportunities to attend school, read more books and ultimately, build a better livelihood. The Kuriton Program has proven it can support youth in Manila to return to school and we've been glad to help provide scholarships for youth that are in the pocket classrooms and those returning to local schools."

Ms. Pefianco started the pocket classroom in her home community of Cavite City and under this project provided four Kuriton Klasrums in the cities of Manila, Pasay, Caloocan and Quezon City, targeting areas where street children are known to stay. To name, four Kuriton Classrooms will add 12 more pocket classrooms around Metro Manila at this year.

"MoneyGram's support will help me not much to children for my expanded programs around Manila," said Pefianco. "The goal is to provide an opportunity for all of Manila's children who may have dried away from school because of poverty, lack of value or studying, and negative elements in their surroundings to once again return to formal education."

From left: Alex Lim, MoneyGram Country Manager turning over check to Elvira Peñafloreta, Jr., CEO and Founder of Dynamic Teen Company

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# Feel at Home, We Speak Your Dialect

By Roger Pe

A customer care service that'll listen to you and hear you without being misunderstood is just a touch of fresh air these days.

When transacting business and other customer care concerns, it is comforting to know that you are going to meet people whom you'll immediately feel at ease with.

Just the very thought makes you feel at home, knowing that you'll be dealing with people who'll understand you even when you are not conversant in English.

And how really reassuring it is when people you encounter can actually speak your Cebuano dialect!

At Globe Telecom, you can now communicate in your heart's content without the worry of being misinterpreted.

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Today, millions of our Cebuano "kabalayuans" will now feel at home every time they transact business with Globe Telecom.

The country's world-leading prepaid network has recently launched a Cebu-based contact center dedicated to Visayan-speaking customers.

The service allows subscribers to converse with Globe easily in their vernacular of choice. How sweet.

The service is in tune with the company's task of continuously innovating ways to enhance customer satisfaction by giving subscribers a wider array of choices to make their Globe experience more personal.

Globe's new language option, provides Visayan-speaking customers access to Globe/TM sales and after-sales services through a dedicated Visayan Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

By following the self-service IVRS voice prompts (in Visayan), callers are directed to a Visayan-speaking customer service representative based in Cebu. Visayan-speaking customers can inquire about any Globe mobile, Landline or Broadband services for sales, care or tech concerns.

In addition to the existing Talk2Globe Hotline, customers can also conveniently learn and avail of the latest offers by calling Globe's dedicated sales hotline at (02) 730-1000 toll-free from any Globe mobile or Landline nationwide.

Cebuano is the country's second most-widely spoken dialect in the country, with over 20 million Filipinos speaking the language in various provinces and cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

The new Globe service marks another milestone in the Philippine telecom industry, offering the first trilingual customer service in the country.

So many choices to make you happy, don't the way it is with Globe – offering you more options to make life a little better, not our way, but your way.

*Alan Genuy among pangi pagpasalamat kontra sa makadaghang dagayaw*

Photo shows a subscriber conversing with a Visayan-speaking customer service representative during the live demo of the Globe Visayan Customer Service launch. Looking on are, from left, Globe Senior Advisor for Consumer Business Peter Wilcox, Globe President & CEO Ernest Cu, Aegis People Support President Bong Barja, and Globe Senior Advisor for Customer Experience Jose Cuico

# Teaching children the value of money early

would from giving them the gift of education, parents need to teach their children how to manage their money early.

In line with this, teaching them the value of saving money should go beyond encouraging them to put coins in the piggy bank.

To start them off in the right direction, here are six ideas that can help you:

1. **The money jar**—Kids (and sometimes adults) find a jar full of shiny new coins fascinating. Thus, get a medium-sized one and put a label on it, such as money for "Patty's new shoes" or "Mikie's new bicycle."

That way, the kids will clearly see that sins, five, and ten peso coins can go a long way in helping them achieve specific goals.

Help them fill the jar and encourage them to think that what they want the most is worth making for.

2. **Talk about money**—Gone are the days when money is a taboo subject. It's important for children to know how finances help the family achieve its goals, send them to school, pay for the bills, and even the occasional family dinners.

Show them that managing resources is better than worrying about it. Have it also the perfect time to teach them about spending wisely and how to use them wisely.

Remember the movie Sleepless?

3. **Death and the big picture**—It's not easy to learn all these things as an adult, so start them while they're young. Part of growing up is learning about how their choices affect the outcome of their lives.

Sit them down and discuss, for instance, what they want to do for the summer. Would they like to go on a family vacation or enroll them in a summer workshop? Discuss the pros and the cons for everyone, how it can help them (i.e. a language program, painting, or karate lessons), and decide to take the best course of action for them. Involve them in the decision-making process.

4. **Recycling**—What better than having environmentally conscious model emails children about money? Explain to them that buying unnecessarily does not contribute to solving the environmental problem.

Recycling old school materials and making do with what they have at home leads to lower consumption of fuel, thereby cutting their carbon footprint, and could even open a delightful pesha'hunt.

5. **Open a savings account**—One of the most memorable things he's child or a teen is going to the bank and opening a savings account. Make a family event out of it.

For children, this is the perfect time to bond with them. And for savers, the perfect way of showing how you treat them. This learning experience is an impression of how a parent teaches his or her child about "grown up" concerns such as managing finances.

Don't deny them this experience.

6. **Making bank**—Never underestimate the value of showing and giving bank. By showing your children the spirit of philanthropy, you open a world of possibilities for them. Educate them on the different charities you are involved in.

Hoarding money and resources does not benefit anyone in the end. The true act of giving means the sharing of spirit and love—this is the best example that it's not all about money.

Spending and saving go hand in hand, and balance is always the key to everything.

Learning these principles early on can expand the world of your children.

Philanthropic encouragers parents to introduce their children to managing finances at an early age.


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## Digital life ...

From page B3-1

Working with research partner Market Probe International, Ikea surveyed 7,213 adults in 10 countries around the world, representing a combined population of 3.6 billion.

Ikea linked the digital life study as an online survey during the summer of 2011. The 7,213 respondents were ages 18 and older and lived in 10 markets across the globe: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"Our study uncovered a strong sense of ambivalence toward the future," says Marianne Hamid, Ikea's global chief strategy officer. "While consumers are embracing all the new technologies and conveniences that are so much a part of the modern lifestyle, they are also mindful about those aspects of life—including simplicity, intellectual, and strong ties to nature's rhythms—that are slipping away.

"There is a growing sense that we need to take some time, individually and as a society, to think about the direction in which we're moving and whether we're going to be happy with where we end up. It's not late to change course entirely, but we must be able to reflect with those aspects of the future that are most unsettling to us."

Highlights of the study include:

Modernity has long been synonymous with progress, but the idea of the future doesn't make us dream anymore. Sixty percent of the global respondents believe society is moving in the wrong direction. More troubling, 4 in 10 sometimes feel they're actually wasting their lives. Seventy-two percent worry about society's moral decline.

While just 10 percent believe digital technology will have a negative effect overall on the world, 42 percent believe it's too soon to tell—suggesting a relatively strong level of distrust and unease about what it is come.

Are people getting dumber? Half the people worry that digital technology and multitasking are impairing humans' ability to think deeply and to concentrate on one task at a time. Around two-thirds believe society has become too shallow, focusing too much on things that don't really matter.

Fifty-eight percent worry we're losing the ability to engage in civil debate. Seven in 10 worry about the rise in political extremism, and 64 percent are concerned about the rise of terrorists and conspiracy theories.

More than a quarter of the entire land-use debt of millennials say moral uncertainty is making them less satisfied with their own lives.

Did Gilliam of Mars has proved unsatisfying: A majority say they are tired of overconsuming and are looking to scale back and live more simply. Four in 10 say they would be happier if they owned less stuff.

"Our probe into technology our revealed a number of emerging concerns," says Tom Meeten, Ikea New York's chief strategy officer, and co-chief strategy officer, Ikea IKEA North America. "Here is the irony: while social media and online communities are drawing away at our right to privacy. A majority worry that technology is robbing us of our privacy, and 6 in 10 think that people are wrong to share so much of their personal thoughts and experiences online. This just re-underlies or supports concern: Two-thirds of millennials believe that their generation has no sense of personal privacy."

"At the same time," says Meeten, "people worry that hyperconnectivity is actually making us feel less connected. More than half the people worry that digital communication is weakening human-to-human bonds. As marketers, we have a dual role to play—to encourage people's concerns about privacy and to ensure more meaning, full connections."

Marianne Hamid adds, "We have so many tools at our disposal today to shape our individual existences. We're going to see more of a push for a sort of 'hybrid' way of living that combines the best of the old and new—keeping current conveniences while holding fast to those traditions and values that are in danger of disappearing. Whether one is spending time digging in the dirt in the garden, immersing oneself in literary classics, or purchasing artisan-made products, people will seek to temper the woe with the old, the artificial with the natural, the digital with the analog. And in this way, we'll ensure a way of living that offers more meaning, comfort, and, ultimately, satisfaction."

For more information about the 19,000 global studies, please visit www.ipsosmoreopinion.com or contact Hermes Agency, Chief Creative Officer and Managing Director, Inc. RICO Philippines, at mercurio.agency@mail.yahoo.com.ph.

## PH seen ...

From page B3-1

about 400 electric vehicles roaming all over the archipelago, according to EEEP president Reinhard Jaeke.

This initial success, according to Jaeke, is a sign of increasing momentum players into this new "green" industry.

Phil Electric Inc. makes electric tricycles while Alternative Modern Transport has launched out from trailers to electric to well.

"[These] startups introduced have spurred the government to take a more serious look at the electric vehicle industry," Jaeke said.


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# BUSINESS Monday

## Manulife Philippines launches the highly affordable Affluence Gold with no medical examinations required

Manulife Philippines recently introduced Affluence Gold, a highly affordable single-pay variable life insurance product designed to give policyowners the best possible returns on their investment and added insurance protection coverage.

With a single pay premium option starting as low as PHP 75,000 or US$ 1,500, Affluence Gold was created specifically for people looking for an affordable medium to long-term financial protection instrument that allows them to optimize the potential earnings from their policy.

"The product is perfect for individuals who may have limited funds available or are not comfortable in investing large sums of money in financial instruments but are still interested in investment options that would optimize the return potential of their money," said Indran Naidoo, President and Chief Executive Officer of Manulife Philippines. "And because of its single pay design, Affluence Gold does not tie them down to medium-to-long term financial commitments either."

Affluence Gold also gives policyowners several investment options from which they can wholly dictate the allocation of their funds into various types of financial instruments. Thus affording them the financial flexibility they desire. The investments can be put into a Peso Bond Fund, Peso Stable Fund, Peso Equity Fund and U.S. Dollar Bond Fund. Affluence Gold is available in both Philippine Peso and U.S. Dollar denominations.

Affluence Gold has no medical examination requirements of applicants, subject to company rules. It also features fund switching, wherein a policyowner is able to switch from one investment fund to another to take full advantage of developments in the financial market, as well as top-up amounts and partial or full withdrawals. These features give policyowners complete control over their funds at all times.

To know more about Affluence Gold, contact Manulife Philippines at (02) 884-7208 or e-mail ph_customerservice@manulife.com or a Manulife financial adviser. You may also visit our website at www.manulife.com.ph.

# Digital life disappoints

## Study reveals dissatisfaction with new lifestyle

By Charlie A. Agcaoi
Contributor

THE WORLD has changed astoundingly in the past two decades. The advance of digital technology, new channels of communication, faster pace of living, and the radical transformation of social mores have left many of us feeling unbalanced.

For all the good it has brought, this explosion of change has produced under a number of things we value, including a meaningful connection to the natural world and a deep-seated sense of community.

Integrated marketing communications agency Ram-MAG Marketside (Ram) recently undertook a major global study to better understand the new realities of modern-day life and how people are reacting to them.

(MORE, B4.1)

## PAEC launches Bridgestone Ecopia

# Best Franchise Brands Highlighted at BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Expo

BUSINESS

# Dubai firm to set up oil refinery in Bataan

## DOE chief says investment deal in the works

By Amy R. Remo

A PUBLICLY listed investor group from Dubai is eyeing to invest in what could be a refinery or a petroleum facility within an industrial park in Bataan to serve as its hub in the region.

This development is expected to benefit the Philippines not only in terms of large investment inflows, as it is will also allow the country to move progressively further away from spare fuel supplies. Over the long term, the entry of the Dubai firm may even allow the country to sell and export finished petroleum products to neighboring countries.

"There are very serious discussions with this group that will fit into the profile of something we're interested in, which is petroleum. This investor will put up investors as well have more crude oil in the country," said Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

Almendras however declined to divulge the identity of the investor declaring the signing of memorandum of agreement and a non-disclosure agreement with the Dubai firm. Contracts, however, are now being prepared to finalize the lease of about 100 hectares of land within the industrial park of PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp. in Bataan.

"The only industries that would fit in the PNOC AFC industrial park is petroleum and petrochemicals. Hopefully, contracts will be signed in the next few months. I've been studying on this for a year and three months," he said, noting that the Philippine government has since been trying to develop the said park so it can be offered for use by international investors.

The contracts to be signed, according to Almendras, would only be mainly for leasing, as the Dubai investor group was only interested in the site where it can set up its petroleum facilities.

DUBAI B4-1

## *Another Mindanao power shortage feared*

MINDANAO May face another power supply shortage of as much as 200 megawatts by the summer of next year, should no additional power facilities be put in place to shore up existing capacities in the electricity-starved island.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras issued the warning as he stressed the need to ease the transfer of the diesel-fired power barges in Mindanao and to resolve the tax dispute over the 100-MW Iligan diesel power plant so that these facilities can start contributing power to the Mindanao grid by February 2013.

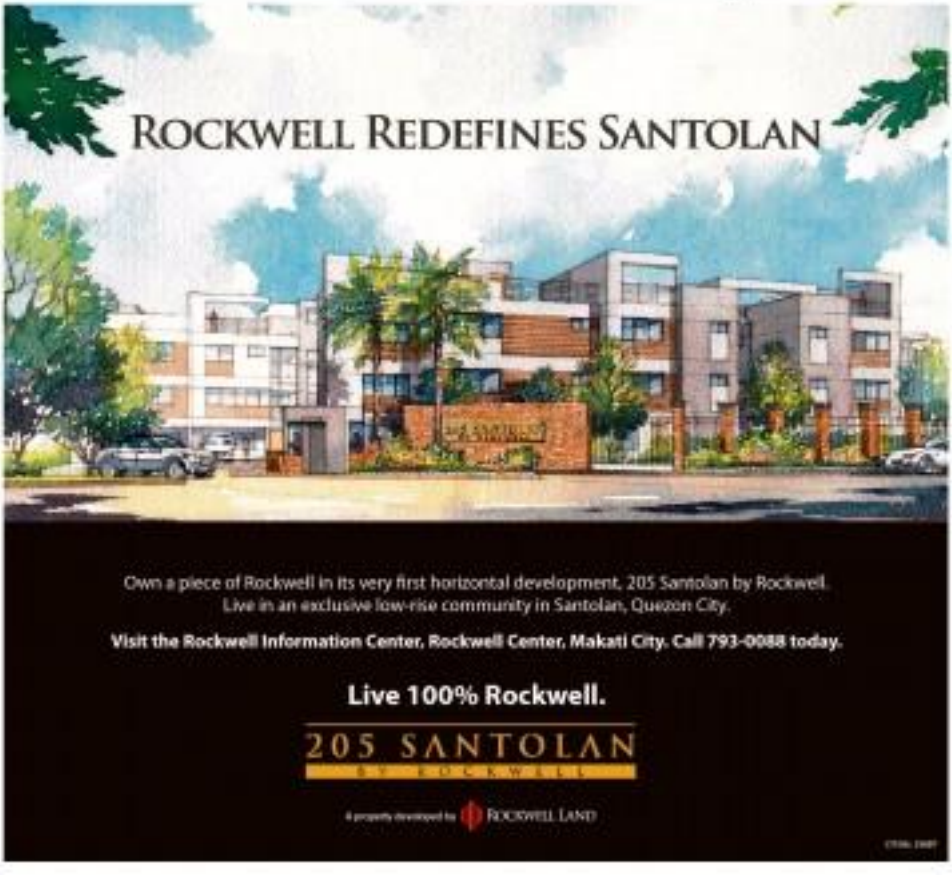
In an interview with reporters last week, Almendras explained that Mindanao residents may face long rotating brownouts, similar to what has been happening since the beginning of the year, unless all stakeholders, the concerned agencies and the local and provincial government make a concerted effort to implement the said measures.

"We are asking for the help of everybody to transfer all the generation available to Mindanao. We hope that no party will block it or have it suspended via a court ruling. I hope all the LGUs will support [the Department of Energy's power measures]," Almendras said.

"Otherwise, we're looking at a 200-MW shortage. It also depends on the rainfall next year because if there are no rains, the Pulangi hydropower complex, which was severely rehabilitated, will not be able to generate the 300 MW it is generating now by the summer months of next year," he added.

The problem, according to Almendras, was that the Mindanao grid is currently running with the more base requirements. Despite the measures

ANOTHER B4-1



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## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – SECURITY GUARDS SERVICE

The **Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines** has the intention to conclude, with a company specialized in the security of persons and of premises, a service contract for 48 months for the following services in Metro Manila:

1. Guarding services for its office building in Makati as well as for the residences of its officials
2. Installation and maintenance of the security systems for the officials' residence
3. Quick Reaction team
4. Installation of safe havens in the residence of the officials.

Details on the conditions of submission of the requests can be found on the website of the Delegation of the European Union:

**http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines/documents/press_corner/20121765.pdf**

The deadline of submission of the request to participate is **11th June 2012**.


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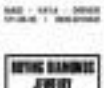

# It's the economy, intrepid!

IT LOOKS like metal stars vests for our leader Benigno Simeon (aka-BS), who reportedly is doing two of three really nice months, looks fantastic "stars" vests, and all in one go: have a total of four days.

After a two-day visit to the United Kingdom, he's scheduled to flip to Washington for a two-day state visit. Perhaps the two-in-one trip is going to cost less. We all know that the Aquino (Fuse E) administration is budget conscious, highly. But then!

In that sprinting four-day outing, the intrepid BS will be traveling across an time zones. And they say that time goes by either!

The forthcoming presidential social visits seem to be focused on Philippine economic issues, particularly the effort of the administration to promote foreign investments here.

Fuse, when I visited, despite the last mention of the London leg into the presidential trip, some big investments by British groups in the Philippines are going to be firmed up during the visit, with BS to witness the signing of the documents.

The ventures deal with energy, infrastructure, natural gas, BPO and mineral processing. Thus, the Palace already had a ready lineup for the business delegation to the London leg of the social trip.

From what I gathered, BS also wants to have with him a business delegation to the US visit, although less than a year ago, in September 2011, he already went on a roadshow visit to the US, bringing home at that time some $2.8 billion in investments by US groups in the Philippines.

The Department of Trade and Industry has several projects in the pipeline involving US groups. Maybe the actual sig of BS can help those groups firm up their investment here.

It is always an advantage for foreign investors to have BS as witness to any business deal/agreement signing. Things hardly get stalled, particularly on the government side.

Personally, the business delegation in the presidential visit to the UK will be a different set from the business delegation to the London leg. I am not sure that big time corporate executives are willing to travel across so many times in four days.

* * *

Why do certain people in the government, all of a sudden, lose the power of the Ombudsman? I can only think of one reason: The Ombudsman means business.

The whistle-blowing Ombudsman candidate, Carpio Morales, who is a retired justice of the Supreme Court, perhaps

served them notice of her marksmanship in doing her job to run after the crooks in the government, is she not like the retired Supreme Court Justice colleagues in the High Court, Chief Justice Hernando Corona, in effect leaving the Chief Justice with her warpaint?

Armed with a report from the AMLC, or the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Ombudsman revealed that the Chief Justice had some $12.2 million to deposits in some 82 accounts in five banks.

She could conceivably have every obligated to report to the AMLC any deposit of more than $10,000 so that the reported dollar deposits of the Chief Justice, if they really exist, are sure to land on the AMLC radar.

You can say that the AMLC, in turn, has an obligation to provide the Ombudsman with records of suspicious bank transactions, including those of the Chief Justice, precisely because the Ombudsman under the law has the power to ask for information from other government agencies.

Morales knew how to use the power of the Ombudsman under the law when she asked the AMLC for a report on the dollar accounts of the Chief Justice, something that we could hardly say about her predecessor, the Gloriastic opposition-throwback Gutierrez.

Members of the AMLC also did their job when they banished Morales with a 17-page report, detailing Corona's real-a-million dollar transactions.

The thing is, how come the Chief Justice has $2 dollar accounts spread out in five banks, which are indeed a lot of accounts...and a lot of banks...for one man? Was the intention behind those scattered deposits really to escape detection by the AMLC? Well, she reached out-of-amount for banks to report suspicious dollar deposits to the AMLC in $10,000.

For banks to avoid having to report those $12 million, at the cut-off of $10,000-per account, the Chief Justice would have had to contact them to more than 1,200 accounts.

But to the guys down here in my harangue, the real question is this: Considering the vast workload in the Supreme Court, with all those pending cases, not to mention to the part of the job of supervising the entire judiciary, how does the Chief Justice find the time to manage all those $2 accounts?

Bites for smart-mouths all those $2 accounts, how does he find the time to do all the work of the Chief Justice?

* * *

Anyway, it is clear that Corpus-Morales is on a crusade against graft and corruption, in a way supporting the campaign promise of the Aquino (Fuse E) administration. That mission will deliver her some from the list of candidates for the position of Chief Justice during the time of the new administration, which eventually was taken by Corona over Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, at that time, the appointment by Ehrlenstein of a new Chief Justice became a big issue, it being a "midnight appointment," as the enemy was already on the way out then. The much bigger issue was the Supreme Court ruling that General Corona's appointment as Chief Justice.

He have to remember it was Morales who wrote a dissenting opinion to that SC ruling.

Here is the deal with Morales as Ombudsman: The Supreme Court cannot issue the usual injunction or TRO (restraining order) against the impeachment court over the opening of the dollar accounts of the Chief Justice) against her investigation on the same dollar accounts, unless of course she is also (cynically) a specimen of low.

Where does the Chief Justice run to now?

## Dubai...

From page B3-1

"They chose the Philippines because of its geographic location, which is really my marketing pitch. Because the Philippines is in a strategic location in the region. In the old industry if you want to be competitive in the market, you have to be very silk cent. Logistics is the name of the game for Indy," Alfonso explained.

Without giving details, Alfonzo announced that the Dubai investor group was the only group that have invitations to commit to bring in a "trailblazing" concept in the global petroleum industry.

## Another...

From page B3-1

enclosed by the government—which included the rehabilitation of the Pulangi facilities, as it can run at installed capacity of 200 MW from the previous operation capacity of 148 MW—the Mindanao grid remains short of adequate supply.

As of last Saturday the Mindanao grid registered a 48.6MW power supply deficit.

"We also have to prepare for the additional demand from Mindanao power consumers and industries," Almendras added. Amy R. Remo

# BUSINESS

# Economy seen to have grown faster in Q1

## HSBC says export recovery boosted GDP

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE PHILIPPINE economy likely grew at a faster pace of 4.6 percent in first quarter of 2012 from 3.7 percent in the previous quarter mainly on the back of recovery in export earnings, international financial services firm HSBC said.

In its latest report on the Philippines, HSBC said the growth in exports in the first three months will provide a boost to the overall economy, which has not yet suffered from correction of earnings from sale of goods to foreign markets due to sluggish performance of Western economies.

HSBC said the slowdown in the growth of remittances in the first quarter might have dragged the pace of increase in domestic consumption lower, but this was more than offset by the rebound in export revenues.

"As such, we expect GDP (gross domestic product) to accelerate in the first quarter on the back of stronger growth contribution from net exports and government spending," it said in the report.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that in the first quarter, the country's merchandise exports amounted to $13.66 billion, up by 4.6 percent from $12.29 billion in the same period last year.

Economists said the single-digit growth in exports was already a welcome development especially since the country came from an exports contraction in 2011.

They said the outlook for exports this year remains uncertain given problems still hounding the US and euro zone economies, but HSBC said the growth in the first quarter would be enough to help the economy post an estimated growth.

On remittances, the BSP earlier reported that these grew year-on-year by 5 percent in the first quarter to $4.6 billion. Monetary officials said the rise in remittances was an indication that overall income of overseas Filipino workers is not significantly affected by the debt crisis in the from zone and the sluggish performance of the US economy.

HSBC noted, however, that the rise in remittances reflected a slowdown after a 7-percent rise registered for 2011.

Remittances form the estimated 10 million Filipinos based offshore—a closely watched economic indicator—fuelo fuel at least 10 percent of households in the Philippines.

The government has set a goal for the economy to grow between 5 and 6 percent this year, with budget officials saying public spending is being boosted to help achieve the target.

The slowdown among economists from the private sector, however, is that the Philippines still manage to post a decent growth rate but will likely fall short of 5 percent.

Last year, the economy grew by an average of 3.7 percent, this slowing down sharply from the 7.6 percent registered in 2010. The slowdown, which the government wants to reverse this year, was blamed on anemic public spending and on drop in export revenues.

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## Regulators move to consolidate co-op banks

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas expects a major consolidation in the cooperative banking sector within the next term, saying more than half of industry players have expressed interest to either acquire or be acquired by another cooperative bank.

The keen interest to consolidate comes amid an ongoing incentive program by the BSP, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and Land Bank of the Philippines for mergers and acquisitions within the cooperative banking arena.

The BSP said in a report that out of the existing 40 cooperative banks in the country, 20 have already expressed interest in undergoing consolidation.

Moreover, there are already three actual applications for consolidation submitted to regulators by 14 cooperative banks. These applications are now in the process of evaluation, the BSP said.

Regulators are pushing for consolidation among cooperative banks in a bid to strengthen their industry.

Without getting names, the BSP said several cooperative banks are financially weak and thus they are better off being acquired by the less vulnerable industry players.

The push for consolidation is what drove the BSP and PDIC to establish an incentive program for cooperative banks that will consolidate.

Under the Strengthening Program for Cooperative Banks (SPCB), banks that will consolidate shall be granted financial assistance, such as in the form of loans and capital infusion, and temporary relief from some regulations.

In particular, PDIC and Land Bank may contribute equity infusion at amounts that will make the consolidated cooperative banks achieve a networth of P100 million and a risk-based capital adequacy ratio, which is the proportion of capital to risk-exposed assets, of 10 percent.

The equity infused by the state-owned firms may be bought from them after 10 years.

The BSP will be in charge of providing regulatory relief, such as flexibility in branching, restructuring of emergency loans secured from the central bank, and waiver of penalties for some unmet requirements.

The existing 40 cooperative banks in the country account for about 0.2 percent of the total P7 trillion in assets of the entire banking sector.

"While the assets of the cooperative banking sector account for only a small fraction of the assets of the entire banking system, it plays a vital role in the financial system," the BSP said in an earlier statement.

The BSP said most of the existing cooperative banks operate in the countryside and provide access to financial services to micro businesses in the rural areas.

The BSP said that with the SPCB, cooperative banks are expected to be better equipped in helping pursue economic development in the rural areas. Michelle V. Rosca

# BUSINESS

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# Banana exporters rethink 40% growth target

## Finding alternative markets will not be easy, gov't says

By Kea T. Chikiamco

THE PHILIPPINE Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PHILBEA) may cut more its target growth in exports this year due to restrictions by China, an industry leader said.

PHILBEA executive director Stephen Antig said the real message then alternative markets in China would not come quickly, thus exporters would be hard pressed to meet its growth target this year of 40 percent.

Antig said that other ready markets for bananas such as Japan are already saturated with Philippine bananas.

"An alternative being proposed by small farmers-exporters is for government to buy bananas originally set to be exported to China and distribute the fruits to the poor. After all, they said, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has a lot of funds. Domestic consumption may not be able to fully make up for the lost exports, however. Or perhaps if there is a way for them to pay for our bananas, we can divert some exports from China to here, but that is not close at the moment," Antig said.

The Department of Agriculture is coordinating with Chinese counterparts to discuss measures to ensure that exports of fruits comply with phytosanitary protocols amid China's vigilant restrictions on Philippine fruit exports.

China tightened requirements for the entry of fruits after it claimed that it had found pests in bananas from the Philippines.

A phytosanitary clearance is issued to indicate that a commodity meets import requirements.

However, PHILBEA is not pinning its hopes on those talks, Antig said.

"We have to look for alternatives, in any case," he said.

Data from the National Statistics Office said the Philippines exported over 2 billion kilograms of bananas valued at $872.6 million.

Of the total, 402.4 kilograms, valued at $93,283 million, went to China.

Philippine banana growers and exporters said they had lost at least $1.44 billion since China imposed tighter restrictions more than two months ago.

China is a major market of banana exports. It also purchases pineapples and papaya from the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Plant Industry Director Clarita Barrios said they received information that Chinese quarantine officials reported having received 43 cases of papaya and pineapples with mealybugs from the Philippines earlier this month.

Exports issues surfaced amid tension between the Philippines and China over the Panatag Shoal and a recent travel advisory against travel to the Philippines, which resulted in the suspension of tour packages.

The travel advisory is "not likely to cripple" our tourism industry at this point and continued with the trade issues may have only "modest effects" on the Philippine economy as efforts to diversify exports had begun even before the issue over the Panatag Shoal, new Socioeconomic Planning Sec. Arsenio M. Balisacan said.

Balisacan is also the new director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

"There is no urgent need for various sectors, whether tourism, agriculture, or industry, to diversify markets and sources of inputs to make them less vulnerable to shocks," Balisacan said. "There are many potential (markets) out there. There are many opportunities other than China. That can be learned from this event."

Balisacan also noted that China is not the only market to search. There can be shocks such as the triple tragedy that happened to Japan last year, or **the floods in Thailand.**

"The effects on our economy are almost similar," Balisacan said. "The only way a country can defend itself from this kind of shock is really to diversify."

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# PH airline industry recorded healthy gains in Q1, says CAB

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S airline industry continued to post healthy gains in the first quarter of 2012, due largely to the budget airlines that have made air travel affordable for millions of Filipinos.

Data from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) showed that the number of international and domestic passengers in the Philippines grew by 11.77 percent in the first three months to 9.418 million.

Cebu-based Cebu Pacific remained the country's top airline, expanding its market share in the period as flag carrier Philippine Airlines slipped further behind.

With 2.37 million domestic passengers in the period, Cebu Pacific cornered a hefty 46 percent of the domestic air travel market—up from 42 percent last year.

This came as PAL and affiliate Air Phil Express both carried 1.06 million passengers or a share of 21 percent each.

PAL saw its domestic market share shrink from 26 percent as its passenger volume shrank 9.3 percent.

On the other hand, Air Phil Express saw its market share grow by a point as its passengers rose 28 percent.

For its part, Zest Airways saw its passenger base grow to 826,832 from 517,939, with its market share growing to 12 percent from 11.

Southeast Asian Airlines (Seair) saw its passenger numbers fall from 46,879 last year to just 18,037 in the first quarter.

Total domestic passenger volume was at 5.18 million, up 12 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, Cebu Pacific also continued to make gains on the international front as its passenger volume reached 711,478 from 605,175 in the same quarter last year.

Its market share was up by a point to 36 percent.

But PAL remained the international industry leader with a market share of 36 percent, albeit down from 38 percent last year. This translates to about 1.09 million passengers, up slightly from 1.01 million **the year before.**

Affiliate Air Phil Express saw its international operations falter as its passengers fell to 194,914 from 338,940 the year before. Its market share trimmed at 2 percent.

Zest Airways, which is owned by Zest-O juice drink creator Alfred Ty, flew 68,991 international passengers for the period. This represents a growth of 72 percent from 39,998 the previous year, bumping up the Ever's market share by a point to 3 percent.

Seair was another big gainer as its passengers nearly doubled to 65,375 from 35,509.

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# UE Alumni Global Homecoming

# Celebrating the UE Alumni Global Homecoming 2012

Honorable Jejomar C. Binay
Vice President of the Philippines
Guest of Honor and Speaker

THE UNIVERSITY of the East (UE) family worldwide consisting of graduates or alumni, past and present UE administrators, employees, faculty members, and students celebrate their much-awaited second UE alumni global reunion in the Philippines, dubbed "UE Go Global"; UE Alumni Global Homecoming 2012 that the Philippine-based UE Alumni Association Inc. (UEAAI) will host on May 25 and 26 at Marriott Hotel and Resorts World Manila, Newport City Complex in Pasay City, and on May 27 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club (WWGCC).

Philippine Vice President Jejomar C. Binay will be featured as guest of honor and speaker during the Gala Night and the UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awards on Saturday, May 26.

A highlight of this year's UE alumni global reunion is the conferment of UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awards upon Ambassador Howard Q. Dee, and the real estate mega developer, Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew L. Tan.

UEAAI Global Homecoming 2012 Executive Committee chairperson, Rosalyn, president and CEO Conar T. Quinambao, the UEAAI officers and various committee chairs and members—led by UEAAI president Commodore Renato S. Cuna (PCG)(AA), and UE marketing executive director and UEAAI architect Jesus T. Tanchanco Jr. joined forces, worked painstakingly to ensure the success of this grand UE family gathering. They are inviting all members of the UE family to attend this fun-filled "UE Go Global" event.

The attendees will have options to enjoy the occasion on Day 1, a P1,500 entrance fee entitles a participant to a non-continuing professional education seminar-workshop and a continuing professional education seminar, and beauty wellness and pampering spa offerings, served with sumptuous lunch, and morning and afternoon snacks; an additional P1,500 allows one to join the Philippine fiesta-ambiance "Welcome Night," served with sumptuous dinner and music by internationally acclaimed and well-known performers; Day 2, one will pay P2,000 for the glamorous "Gala Night" and the UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awards, served with sumptuous dinner, music by internationally acclaimed and well-known performers and dancing with expert dance instructors, and the raffle of fabulous prizes, such as, business class trip via PAL, vacation package at Boracay Regency for two, laptop computer, Apple iPad2, and P50,000; and Day 3, a (friendly golf tournament, with an entry fee of P1,800, or the attendee can opt for a Metro Manila and/or provincial tour.

Notable singer Judith Raad and Powerplay band, one of the best bands in the country and known for its high-energy performance, will provide a powerful live entertainment at the Filipino fiesta-ambiance "Welcome Night." UE's equally talented, award-winning artists, the internationally-acclaimed UE Chorale, the UE Silangmata Dance Troupe, and the UE Pep Lifé's first prizewinners Isabelle Guirba (for 2010) and John Paul Manuel (for 2011) will show off their fine performances.

The continuing professional education (CPE) seminar will have lawyer Rosario S. Bernardo, managing partner, R. S. Bernardo and Associates talking on "Taxation of Resident Aliens in the Philippines," and ABRE Tax and Financial Services owner/manager Antonio K. B. Enriquez lecturing on "Basic Tax Information for USA Immigrants."

There is also a non-CPE seminar with a line up of expert resource speakers and interesting topics. Pinoy Laughter Yoga facilitator Necie Martin L. Trinidad handles the "Laughter Yoga." Showbiz Dance Studio artistic director/owner Lala Bas-Bas-glasan lectures the benefits of "Belly Dancing." Dr. Elbert J. Espina talks on "It's In Your Smile: The Road To Total Smile Over."

After the morning half-day stint at the UE Manila Campus to pay homage to the alma mater, the home comers will go to the Filipino-produced Broadway musical "The Sound of Music" at the Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila, or they can go shopping The Gala Night and the UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awards will have the music of saxophonist Nino Lañeta. The world-renowned UE Chorale will serenade the audience with a selection of their award-winning songs and repertoire from their concert tours abroad. The partygoers will dance and sing along to the music of the Spirit of 67 band, with their favorite hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

There is an art gallery mounted by the UE Fine Arts alumni, led by its president Ed Arcilla, for a two-day exhibition of the masterpieces for auction during this global reunion. According to Ed Arcilla, among the distinguished UE alumni artists who will join him in this UE alumni global art exhibit are Gus Albor, Angie Bandoy, Arie Bugtas, Mar Balarbar, Joe Bautista, Benjie Bunyo, Ruth Converso, Marcelino dela Cruz, Renato Mabong Galicano, Del Garcia, Art Hababag, Fitz Herrera, Josef Lasarenas, Bel Monsanto, Godofredo T. Mendoza, Soliman Sison Mendoza, Norman Morabito, Johann Pedlarino, Danilo S. Pangan, Roberto M. A. Robles, Rolando Rufo, Fernando Sena, Reinoffer Talledo, Cesar Velez, Roldan Maiok Wotton, Adriano Vicente, and Nonoy Pingoot.

The golf tournament on Sunday, May 27 at WWGCC with a mix of local and foreign-based UE alumni seeing action will also serve as a culminating activity for the said global UE alumni gathering. Golf participants will tee off at 1 p.m.

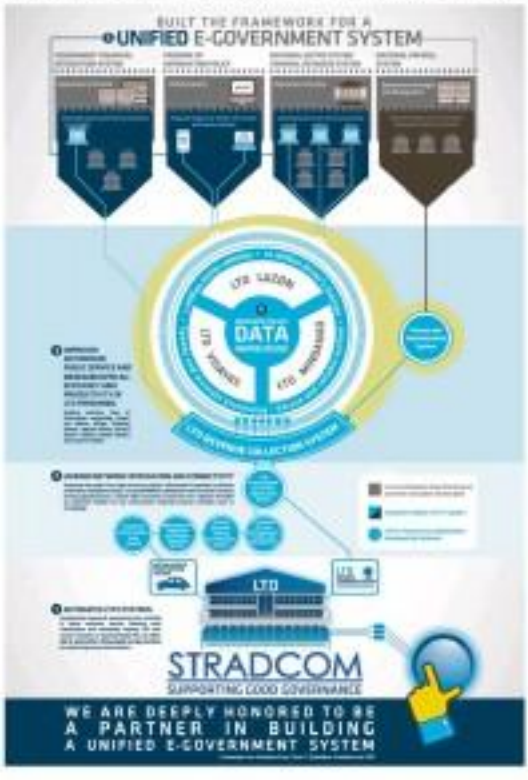
## UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awardees

Dr. Antonio L. Tan
Chairman and President
Megaworld Corporation

Ambassador Howard Q. Dee
Chairman, Asia3 Development
Foundation

For registration and other details, contact the UEAAI Secretariat at tel. nos. 735-5471 locals 458/ 459/ 268; or 736-85-62, or 733-8337.

*'This year's 'UE Go Global' event also takes the opportunity to promote Philippine tourism. Foreign-based members of the UE family will come home to take part in this extraordinary momentous gathering, a rejoicing moment indeed'*



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8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
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- Sumptuous lunch
- Morning & afternoon snacks
- Art Exhibit & Auction
- Pampering Spa, Beauty & Wellness Offerings

Registration Fee: P1,500.00*

**Day 1** (May 25, Friday)

5:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Newport City
Welcome Night with a Filipino fiesta ambiance, inclusive of:

- Sumptuous dinner
- Music by internationally acclaimed performers
- Dancing with expert dance instructors

Attire: Filipiniana
Registration Fee: P1,500.00*

**Day 2**
(May 26, Saturday)

8 a.m.-12 nn., **UE Manila Campus Tour (free)**

**Day 2** (May 26, Saturday)

2 p.m. Newport Performing Arts Theatre, RWM

- Musical Stage Show: The Sound of Music (separate rates apply; ranging from P1,000-P2,000)
- Shopping

5 p.m., Marriott Hotel
Gala Night glitz & glamour including:

- Sumptuous dinner
- Music by internationally acclaimed performers
- Dancing with expert dance instructors
- Guest of Honor and Speaker: Honorable Jejomar C. Binay, Vice President of the Philippines
- UE Alumni Global Lualhati Awards
- Raffle of fabulous prizes (for 2-day registrants)

Registration Fee: P2,000.00*

**Day 3** (May 27, Sunday)

- **Optional Metro Manila and Provincial Tours****
- **Golf Tournament**
  (Walk-Walk Golf & Country Club): 11 a.m. Registration, 1 p.m. Tee Off. **Golf Entry/ Registration Fee: P5,000.00***

**Join ALL the fun events of Day 1 and Day 2 (May 25 & 26) and get a chance to win big raffle prizes!**

- **The raffle draw is during the Gala Night on May 26, 2012.**
  *(Participants who paid P5,000 are entitled to 1 raffle ticket.)*
- **Raffle tickets at P200 each are available during the registration at the Marriott Hotel.**

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**There are also available Marriott Hotel rooms for only P7,650 NETT or US $165/room/night with breakfast VS current regular rate of P12,352 or US $274.**

* Registration fees can be paid via All and Asia credit card (Visa or Mastercard), or in cash at the UE Marketing Department or on site during registration.
**Optional Provincial Tours payments are arranged/ listed on the package selected.

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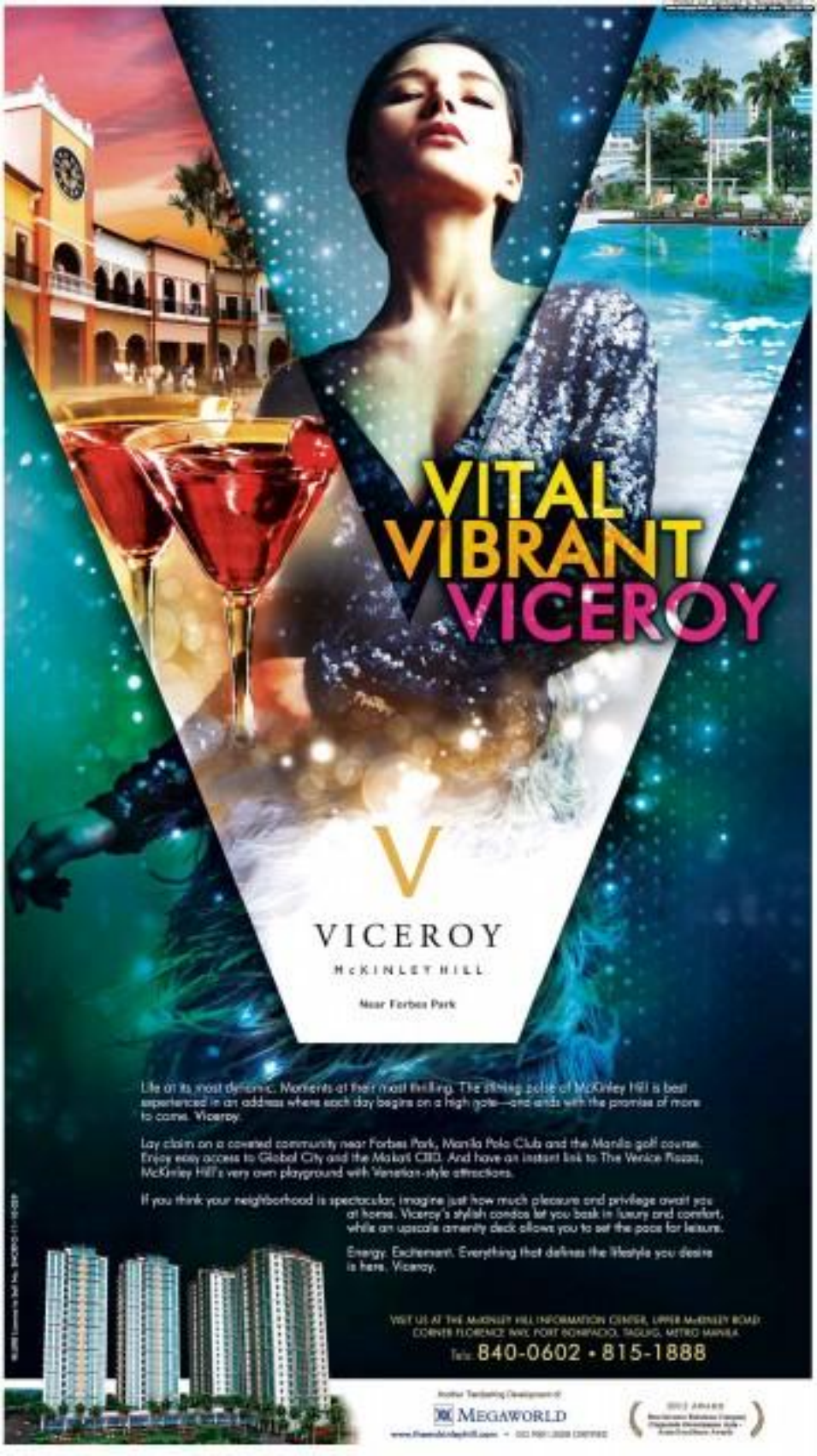
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# International ballet superstars to perform on Philippine stage

NATALIA Kremen and Oleni Malanenki of the "The Royal Ballet"

TEN ACCLAIMED principal dancers from respected international dance companies will perform in "World Stars of Ballet."

Presented by Ballet Manila and Manila Broadcasting Company, with Ed & D'Art Productions, the show is scheduled on June 6-8, 7:30 p.m., at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

"World Stars of Ballet" brings together celebrated dancers such as American Ballet Theater Paloma Herrera and Marcelo Gomes; Royal Ballet's David Makhateli and Natalia Kremen; Mariinsky Theater's Daria Pavlenka and Yevgeny Ivanchenko; English National Ballet's Daniel Gaudinamo; Kremlin Ballet's Aleksandra Timofeeva, Norwegian National Ballet's Yuri Laurenas and Yolanda Correa Frias; and the Philippines' Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

"It is going to be an exciting evening of grace of arts, and very athletic and graceful dancing!" said Elizalde, pointing out that the repertoire would combine classical, neoclassical and modern-dance pieces.

She added that two couples of Ballet Manila who had been accepted to the Beijing International Ballet competition would be performing side by side with the ballet superstars.

The repertoire also showcases two Pas—the Apollo Pas de Deux and Diamonds Pas de Deux, both Balanchine ballets highlights have never been performed in Manila.

Also featured are the "Romeo and Juliet" Balcony Pas de Deux, "Giselle Pas de Deux," "Le Corsaire Pas de Deux," "Don Quixote Grande Pas De Deux," as well as original choreographies done especially for Ballet Manila—"Unum," "Whirlwind," "Swan Song," "Reconfigured," "Arachnids," "Dreams" and "Heaven" and "Dancing to Death."

Elizalde and Makhateli, who partnered her in last year's "Swan Lake," thought of organizing an international ballet gala performance in Manila specifically to raise funds for Project Ballet Futures. A personal initiative of Elizalde, the program aims to give talented underprivileged children a shot at making classical ballet a professional career for themselves.

Nine of the 24 Project Ballet Futures scholars, Jessa Bulcon and Jarod Mendoza, were recently interviewed for CNN's "Eye on the Philippines" series, helping to draw attention to the scholarship program.

*Tickets are available in Ticketworld, tel. 8000292 or 5223567; e-mail info@ticketworld.com.ph; www.ticketworld.com.ph.*

LISA Macuja-Elizalde and Rudy de Dios in Ballet Manila's "Don Quixote"

# Leeds winner Sofya Gulyak electrifies Manila anew

By Antonio C. Hila
Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL PIANIST Sofya Gulyak recently electrified Manila audiences anew in a solo recital at the CCP Little Theater. This was only weeks after her sterling collaboration as featured soloist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in its final concert for the season.

In an impressive all-Russian program, Gulyak displayed her winning form as the first woman ever to garner the top prize in the Leeds Piano Competition in 2009.

The program was a showcase of intense virtuosity that minimized power and technical brilliance only a well-honed, steely pair of hands could exercise.

Undoubtedly, the Russian technique in piano playing was forced to the felt, engineered in full-bodied singing tones of brilliant symphonic proportion.

Gulyak literally played close to the key. She sat quite on the edge of the chair in high position which ensured her complete control of her nimble fingers as they ran across the keyboard. There was no histrionics, only plain sensitive playing, as she brought out vibrant tones.

All her fingers capably produced the desired sound she wanted. They were all robustly honed, allowing her thus to be in complete technical command.

SOFYA Gulyak

## Absorbing playing

Watching her sink her fingers on the keyboard with an astounding cool manner, devoid of unnecessary mannerisms, except in particular, was such a visual treat. Absorbing listening were on undistracted.

The first set of pieces from Rachmaninoff and Scriabin brought out a general mood of perseverance and resolution. In case, the pianist engaged full attention of the audiences in the opening three miniature pieces from Rachmaninoff's Fantasy Pieces (Bilderstucke de Fantaisie).

She etched a meditative Elegie; a comedy Prelude and a hopelessly expressive "Melancholie." The latter's lyrical middle section was exquisitely absorbing as she let her tone sing, providing total contrast to the two lively outdoor.

In Etude Tableaux, Op.39/, No.5, she fared an extremely virtuosic study. She executed those wide leaps that had become a benchmark of Rachmaninoff's piano compositions with astounding brilliance.

And as if virtuosity was needed more, she generously had alluring music in Variations on a Theme by Corelli, which she played with a broad sweep. The freshness of the first part was matched by the brilliance of the last part, which closed with an impressive coda. And in between, she etched a seemingly haunting section.

Scriabin's Two Poems, Op. 32, provided a contrast in sonority in the first work, the pianist etched a feminine thought lyrical passage which was starkly contrasted with dynamic chord passages in the second.

A last de force was seen in Shostakovich's Prelude and Fugue, No. 15, a work composed in the early '50s. Gulyak conjured an abrupt theme akin to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and soon burst into a fugue that was rich in chromatic configurations. She emerged triumphant in the end, with more energy reserved for the concluding section of her program.

## War sonatas

Gulyak's playing elicited rousing applause punctuated by shouts of "bravo."

Prokofiev's sonata No. 6 in A Major was her piece de resistance that concluded the recital. Prokofiev himself labeled the piece, together with the next two pieces, "war sonatas, as they were written during the beginning years of the war in Europe.

A work of somewhat epic proportion spread in four movements, the piece is massive and demands utmost virtuosity.

Gulyak etched the biting dissonances that piled upon the first movement, the unwinding passages in the upper register, the percussive chords and the like that all suggest menaces and brimmed about the war. And who can, indeed, considering that some 20 million humans had perished in the said war?

Then, she played the march like allegretto of the second movement, which eloquently parodied the soldiers marching aristocratic in staccato. Nostalgia pervaded the sedate of the third movement, only to be broken by the final scene-setting fourth movement capped with a thunderous coda, which she played comfortably paced (but avoiding being a stunt.

Gulyak played the piece with gusto, and with a burning, spontaneous dynamic. The audience applauded lustily, demanded an encore, which she readily gave: two pieces at that, a movement from a Scarlatti sonata and a transcription of a Bach piece.

Gulyak has won the glowing admiration of Manila's music lovers, who would always welcome a return engagement in the future.

# US pianist Raffi Kasparian to perform in Laoag

By Pablo A. Tariman
Correspondent

ROSES AMERICAN pianist Raffi Kasparian, 13, year old son, Roman, performs at the Northern Christian College Auditorium in Laoag City on July 14, it will bring back memories of a few seasons announced in Buena Vista's concerts ago.

While the program has interesting pieces by Bach, Ravel and Rachmaninoff among others, the father and son will connect with Filipino audiences by opening the concerts with a piano arrangement of "Hamabhawan" and two purely local pieces by Francisco Buen. zalida.

To be sure, this is not the first invasion of classical music in the province.

Cecile Licad played on all Chopin program at the Malacañang in Manila in 2001, and another all Chopin recital in 2006 with some Leonard de la Cruz and Rosie Christopher Guarino opening the concert at the historic Paoay Church.

Licad played Mozart in Cagayan in the prime of Lt. Gen. Cayetano Aberdeen after the Paoay concert, a thirteen grand piano had to travel 16 hours from Manila to Paoay and Gumiran and back for the recital.

When Gov Imee Marcos hosted a piano con for Paoay Rizalahoy, I thought I'd hand the cuff of Paoay by encouraging a concert of an American pianist married to a native of Paoay, Ilocandia Basque.

PIANIST Raffi Kasparian; Paoay Church; Northern Christian College in Laoag City

## Buena Vista sizes

If you are driving to Laoag for this July 14 piano recital, you might as well get acquainted with Paoay's colorful past—its dances, its delicacies (dalid, a native delicacy), its wine (basi), its folk rituals.

A day before the concert, you could invite, ad Magsaysay Beach, enjoy a breath-taking view of Chino Sea on top of Cape Bojeador Lighthouse in Burgos town, and perhaps find time to visit the Luna House in Badoc town, where the country's first violinist, Manuel Luna Tavallon of painter Juan Luna), came from. He was graduated from the Barcelona conservatory of music in the late 1800s.

After the concert, you can proceed to see the Buenavista Bahay in Bacarra town, where I saw old discarded violins and a dilapidated piano and harp, tucked in the parish museum. Those neglected musical instruments remain lyrical of the old musical glory of this town.

Another must is a visit to Sarrat Church, where ancient catacombs exist.

Luz Cagiao, former chair of the Paoay Cultural and Tourism Council and a dentist teaches, said Paoay was the cultural center of the Ilocos Region and the center of music making. Distinguished music teachers, she said, included Amador Galimara, Ateneo Bartat and Julio Pilar.

Ten years ago, a singer-girl named Ramon Hermanos from Pidilig, Buena Vista, traveled seven hours with her father, Ramond, to hear Licad perform in Vigan (now City). She was met when the girl asked her autograph, and Licad ended up listening to the girl who happened to be a piano student.

In two years, Nita Abrogar Quinto was in the National Music Competition for Young Artists. She is now based in South Carolina, where she was given music scholarship.

The presence of 12-year old Roman Kasparian in the July 14 concert should give us an idea of the musical genes of the Ilocanos.

And, recently admitted into his 8th grade, Roman has been a frequent winner of piano competitions and masterpiece in lessons recitals given by the Northern Virginia, Washington and Maryland Music Teachers Association since 2007. He was featured soloist in a piano master class given by renowned pianist Ribat Edan, who accredited Manila audiences some years back.

The July 14 concert of pianists Raffi and Roman Kasparian is presented by Silaw Philippine Inc. under Jeanette Vasquez Kasparian, in association with various NGO's coordinated by Angelica V. Barbero and the Paoay Parish Council represented by Dr. Julito Corabay.

For tickets, call 0917 8680223 or e-mail jeannevasquez001@yahoo.com

# *Bayanihan performs in Memphis*

BAYANIHAN, THE national folkdance company of the Philippines, is back after its successful performance in the Philippines Live from the launch cultural program at The Orpheum Theater in Memphis, Tennessee.

Philippines Live from the launch is 2012 Memphis in May International festival's salute to the Philippines. The Philippines was chosen by festival organizers from a list of nine countries.

Among the nine countries honored by the festival in previous years are Korea, India, Thailand, China and Japan. Belgium was last year's honored country.

Bayanihan's production extended to Memphis after its international debut at the Brussels Universal Exposition in 1958. Since then the Bayanihan has mounted tours in Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. It has earned the distinction of being the first Filipino group in prelude in Broadway and the first non-American dance company to perform at the New York State Theater of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. It is also the first Filipino cultural group to perform in Russia and the People's Republic of China. Among other distinctions, Bayanihan is the only dance company to receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay award for international understanding.

FORMER Sec. Helena Benitez, Bayanihan artists cast and delegates, before departure for the Memphis in May Festival

Present during the occasion was Secretary of Tourism Ramon Jimenez; Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia Jr. and wife Vicky, also graced the affair. They were joined by Philippine Consuls General Marciano Paynor Jr. and Maria de Leon, Guillermo Luz, Antonio Montecalvo III, and architect and business enthusiast Augusto Dilabayo.

Aside from their production at the Orpheum Theater, Bayanihan also performed for elementary and high school students in Memphis.

# Acclaimed Italian films to be screened at Shang Cineplex

"LA STANZA DEL figlio (The Son's Room), an award-winning Italian film, will be screened at the Edsa Shangri-La Cineplex on May 24, 12:30, 3 p.m., 5:30, 8 p.m.

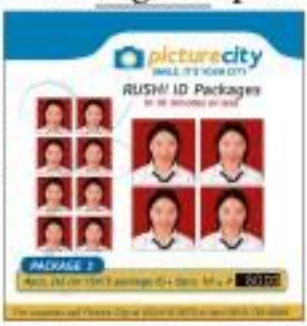
La Stanza del figlio won the PRINCIPAL Prize and the Palme d'Or for director Nanni Moretti at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival. It was also named Best Foreign Film at the Bodil Awards, Robert Festival, Italian Film Critics Association Awards in 2001.

In the movie, psychoanalyst Giovanni Sermanni devotes is entered to a patient instead of spending time with his son Andrea. In his father's absence, Andrea goes scuba-diving, where he meets Irena (Jasmine Trinca), Giovanni's future girlfriend, and eventually, death. The family falls into a period of deep mourning until one day they receive a letter from Andrea's former girlfriend, which might just be their key to healing.

Shang's tribute to the brilliance of Italian filmmaking also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Philippine-Italian Association.

Other films to be featured during the year include "Le Fate Ignoranti" (Ignorant Fairies), "Farebbi da un Incubo Durante" (Swept Away), "Benvenuti Colombo" (Crime Novel), "Lultima Notte" (The Last Kiss) and "Vincere" (Victory).

Seats are on a first come, first served basis. For inquiries, please contact 6357831 loc. 1116 or log on to www.shangrilaplaza.com. Add Shangri La Plaza on Facebook: shangrilaplaza@shangrila.



# Edgar Allan Poe comes alive, darkly...

From page E4

"Reynolds." The medical records would also appear, sending the writer's macabre immortality both in literature and history.

Brad Pitt fans will delight to hear "Raven" makes allusions to a number of Poe's gothic murder stories. The script is a smorgasbord of unsolved murders, cutesy names from "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Mask of the Red Death," "The 98 and the Pendulum," "The Black Cat" and "The Premature Burial," and involves names that were actually connected to the author in one way or another during his lifetime.

This overload of literary citation has for its catalyst Poe, who is called in to help solve the murders that are based on his stories, and his number one fan, the purported fan: whether the title's referent is Poe, a screaming madman of a drunk for all his writing genius, or the dark, unnamed predator, is not clear.

JOHN Cusack and Alice Eve in a scene from "Raven"

## Masquerade

Cusack is no stranger to playing literary puzzle-solvers, having played Ed Dakota in the Agatha Christie-inspired "Identity" (2003) and Mike Enslin in "1408" (2007), based on the Stephen King novel of the same title.

But in "Raven," it may take a while before viewers tuned to Cusack's boyishly charming on-jump across the historical language barrier. Of course, the lines of poetry and prose are saved by the fact that they are iconic recitations of literary brilliance, but the conversational script is resolutely 21st century masquerading in 19th-century clothes.

Removing fluency from the picture, "Raven" does make for a nice trip down memory lane for those who grew up with the stories. Moviegoers can expect numerous of ghoulish entrances as Poe fans are familiar scenes in the silver screen flesh. Removing history, we say, because while fictitious names and events are involved, the script uses it fit to construe their involvement for its purposes.

## Nameless nevermore

In the end, "Raven" is a fun work of fiction, one that revisits what today might be lesser known creative work by weaving a story around the chapters of the author's less explained demise.

In doing so, the film by director James McTeigue (whose other works include "V for Vendetta" (2005) and "The Media" (2009)) conjures that Edgar Allan Poe's legacy is not forgotten among today's audiences, whose recent fare of film adaptations has so far been limited to the comic book variety.

So the mystery of Edgar Allan Poe remains alive. Surprising exposure of his carefully calculated rules of grim murder, quoth this writer in this era of Facebook. But will not be manufactured forevermore.

# UST National Creative Writing Workshop opens today in Baguio

THE FACULTY OF ARTS and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas will be hosting the UST Creative Writing Workshop, May 20-26, at the Ridgewood Residences in Baguio City. Workshop fellows include faculty members, researchers and graduate students from the different faculties and colleges of UST.

Fellows are Gonzalo Aglipit, Ma. Adil Alvarez, Arlene Therese R. Avila, Paul Castillo, Wenniclet Esplico, Archbeard M. Lopez, Dawn Mindil, Edward Padilla, Joan Pedregosa, Charlotte Pascual, Professor Roy, Alvin Ranggo Reyes, Virginia Arm. Ignacio, Karen Mae Sena and John Jack Rigley.

The coaching panel is composed of award-winning writers Cristine Pantoja Hidalgo, Norma del Carmen Gonzales, Eros Atalia, Amelia de los Reyes, Ralph Semino Galan and Leo Umbaña.

For information, call Ralph Semino Galan, workshop coordinator, (0920) 9370830.

# Edgar Allan Poe comes alive, darkly, in "Raven"

By Elvira Paul S. Pineda
Contributor

IN THE MIDDLE of superheroes and noninvestors literature characters making the jump from the page to the silver screen, filmmakers are digging deeper to come up with the next blockbusting mega-earner.

At least, that is the premise with "The Raven," passionately based on reclusive titan Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem, whose menacing and exquisite sensuality almost single-handedly lifted the Gothicism drunkard from obliteration's literary darkness.

But the John Cusack starrer is not about the literary heavyweight's night in black December, and whatever treats we see in the film does not sneak words of hopelessness that drive the narrator into madness.

The kind is, however, omnipresent in the film, and paints it with its ominous color—an allegory of evil, if you will—one that surrounds the fatal circumstances among

**Movie is about the literary figure himself, capitalizing on the actual mysteries surrounding his death by drawing from his fictional creations**

along the storyline.

Which reminds us...the story is much like that other film expanding the world of a certain London detective, with some major

EDGAR Allan Poe is famous for his poem "The Raven" and gothic fiction.

ALICE Eve (center) plays Emily Hamilton.

even death or circumstance, followed by another until the hero vanishes up in the mist, although, "Raven" is about Poe, the author himself and not his literary character, and capitalizes on the actual mysteries surrounding the writer's death by filling it in with a fictional rendering of its cause.

### Macabre smorgasbord

We know that Edgar Allan Poe was found in a dire state of health on a Baltimore park bench, and died a few days after. We know that before his last breath, Poe was supposed to have kept uttering the name

EDGAR 11

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RICE-GRANARY figure made from Kalinga candles

# Cool everyday objects bridge old, new in the Cordillera

Text and photos by Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

I T LOOKED cool. I wanted to have it for myself, I wanted to source it," Pedrosapent Perez said of the old yellow-and-pink plastic pushing she saw bobbing up and down on others' backs while she walked around Baguio City and its environs.

A well-worn, weathered pushing (an indigenous backpack traditionally woven from vines) with a natural brown, worn

CONS./D2

# *Asean forum tackles challenges confronting regional weaving traditions and industries*

By Nanon M. Reyandayan
Contributor

PLAIDS and hooks!, the recurring motif-icons of the forum, take-off points of discussion in a forum tackling the plight of weavers and craftsmen in Southeast Asia and China.

The three-day forum, spearheaded by the Textile Council for Culture and the Arts (TACCA), tackled issues about the

ASEAN/D6

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APP OF THE WEEK

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APP OF THE WEEK
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# Unesco declares 4th week of May as International Arts Education Week

FOLLOWING the success of the 2nd World Conference on Arts Education (May 25-28, 2010, Seoul), the fourth week of May has been proclaimed as International Arts Education Week by Unesco's general conference at its 36th session presided by Dr. Irina Bokova, Unesco director-general.

The main objective is to increase the international community's awareness of the importance of arts education by showcasing acclaimed arts education projects and practices and reinforcing cooperation with main stakeholders of arts education.

The first edition celebration will be at the Unesco headquarters on May 23 with various activities coorganized by Unesco and the government of the Republic of Korea centering on the "Implementation of the Seoul Agenda," the 2nd World Conference, and "Cultural Diversity in and through Arts Education."

In the Philippines the celebration will commence with an interactive South-South forum on cultural diversity and biodiversity through arts education on May 23.

The event seeks to promote the Seoul Arts Education Agenda of Unesco.

Partners in the Philippines include the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, International Theater Institute and facilitators Unesco Dream Center - headed by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

DILIDA/TEO (on the international forum in Lanag, Baras Norte, on the weaving traditions of the Philippines, Asean and China

# Asean forum tackles challenges confronting regional weaving...

From page D1

economic and cultural implications of weaving in the region.

Delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and China were present to showcase their respective weaving traditions.

The Philippine delegation consisted of weavers from Panay Bantay, Pinili, Bicgan, Ilocos and Bauko.

Jesus Peralta, anthropologist, former director of the National Museum and Don Carlos Palanca Jr. literary awards hall of famer, talked about the protection of intellectual property in the case of "intangible" cultural heritage.

In his case, intellectual property refers to the entitlement of an individual and/or a community in its cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage is defined by Peralta as "being constantly recreated by a community or an individual."

The definition posits the question of the ownership of intellectual rights," said Peralta.

However, the major issue lies in traditional culture being in the public domain. "Can it be owned? Technically any entity claim the culture of any segment of it but sometimes any owning" Peralta said in his presentation.

To maintain and develop intangible cultural heritage through individuals, Peralta added, a person's legal status must be clearly defined through legislative action, a relevant law, right of attribution, and an organization.

Lastly, Peralta reiterated the difference between intangible cultural heritage and intellectual property rights.

"Intangible cultural heritage differs from intellectual because it developed throughout generations and continues to be used and evolves within the society's originated from," Peralta said.

## Green materials

Nieverson Kimanzo, director of trade promotion and business development department of Sarawak Arts and Crafts International Centre of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, said Thailand held training programs for weavers.

"Aside from the traditional method of weaving, the weavers are taught creating natural dyes, quality control, warping and matching the colors," he said. "The weavers are also trained in weaving fabric through green materials and recycling materials."

Kimanzo also took note of the problems of undefined. That weavering amid global warming and changing society.

Chanto Cabolisan Cariaga, one of the Philippine representatives and based in a weaving town, mainly in Bicol, Baras Norte, talked about the formation of Hagbanlan Loomweavers Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

The cooperative faced the challenge of the model weaving tradition facing extinction due to modernization and economic constraints. The tourist industry - weaving cooperative started with 13 female weavers and has now grown with 56 active members with a total asset of around P5-million, Cariaga said.

The Hagbanlan cooperative's most notable achievement is having its loom weaving products showcased in an exhibit by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions by a British consultant.

"The cooperative was very successful in reviving the model weaving tradition because it was one of the country's primary livelihoods," Cariaga said.

Rosalah Jalmo, the delegate from Malaysian Handicraft Development Corp., discussed the history of traditional Malaysian weaving and the government's attempts to make it more profitable.

## Essential part

The couple, similar to the Philippines' model and limited weaving, was given focus as an essential part of Malaysian weaving industry.

Jalmo discussed the goal of the Malaysian weaving industry to innovate the handwoven textiles by incorporating modern motifs. The unseen designs, she explained, drew from the daily life of Malaysians, sometimes based on native plants and animals.

He said the Malaysian government had agreed to set up the National Craft Institute to support the local weaving industry.

Chinese delegate Zhou Jia of Chongqing University of Science and Technology discussed the history of weaving in China, with focus on woven silk fabrics.

The woven-silk tradition is characterized by the intricate designs based on Chinese history. The three most notable Chinese brocades are shu, song and yun, said Zhou.

During the forum, the delegates assessed rules and regulations of each member country on weaving, including important export ingredients.

The forum agreed on the decision to establish a national level weavers' associations in each country; strengthen regional trade networks; and promote intellectual property rights.

The delegates also resolved to raise public awareness on traditional weaving through awards and recognition of master weavers.

The delegates also visited the local weaving communities of barrio and Pacan in Baras Norte.

The three-day forum in Plaza del Norte in Baras Norte also featured an exhibit of select pieces of handwoven and handwoven fabrics from various countries.

NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts chair views a weaving demonstration

OBAN Maria Horne, head of the NCCA's National Committee on Language and Translation; Bro. Armie Lobrio, FSC, Department of Education Secretary; National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario, NCCA Commissioner and Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs of the Department of Education Alberto Muyot; Estrella Juliano Banzon, vice-head of the NCCA National Committee on Conservation

# 'Cultural Icons' on exhibit

"CULTURAL ICONS," an exhibit on leading cultural figures of the nation, will run until May 24 at the South Wing lobby of Bonifacio Residence, which houses the House of Representatives of the Philippines.

Now on its third leg, the traveling exhibit features the first batch of the 100 cultural icons identified by both culture and arts workers and officiators all over the country.

Among those exhibited are the obelisks, Fernando C. Amorsolo, Ifugao Rice Terraces, Kiniray-a Weavers, Kinse-ay Basketmen, Kapulan, Kalayan Women, pabbing, Rice Terraces of the Cordillera Igorots, among others.

Gracing the event will be House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo, vice-chair of the Committee on Basic Culture and Education; Jose Mario Mabit of the University of the Philippines' Joint Center and head of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts' National Committee on Language and Translation (NCCA-NCLT) and National Artist Virgilio Almario.

According to Mabit, the identification of cultural icons is an important undertaking as it will "institutionalize the public, most especially students, of elements that represent the arts, culture, history and environment of the country.

"Cultural Icons" is part of the NCCA's Philippine Gallery of Education Programs.

Mabit said aside from an exhibit, "Cultural Icons" will be released as a book and in CD format, to be distributed as instructional materials all over the country.

The exhibit was previously staged at the Department of Education and Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City.

For more details, contact NCCA Public Affairs and Information Office head Ilena Sanchez Ampuria at 527-2192 or (0920-508-3057; visit www.ncca.gov.ph; or e-mail ncca.pio@gmail.com.

## Baldemor at Ayala

"Timeless: Iberia Landscapes by Manuel Baldemor" is part of the commemorative activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of official Iberia-Philippine relations. It is on view May 23-July 1 in Ayala Museum (G/F Gallery, Makati). Tel. 757-7137, e-mail/museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org).

In 1994, Baldemor became the first Filipino artist to be granted an artist-in-residence private study at Centro Nacional de Arte in Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain. He also studied at Atelier de Lavigne in Paris, France and at Atelier 17 in Paris, France and at Atelier 17 in Paris, France and at Atelier 17

TAPESTRY made of plastic bags by Jean Mandaya, inspired by Banaue textiles

MIXED portrait of Kidlat Tahimik by Bontoc artist Pidlaan, using found materials, including mirror, coins, child's slipper

BROOMS of bamboo and pinnadora; at right, antique brooms with carved handles from BanCab's collection

LAMP made of gin bottles

POP and ART by Ebrahim Sarilling Bilbao

# Cool everyday objects bridge old, new in the Cordillera

From page D1

black, from exposure to the elements. The store had the young anthropologist and bookstore proprietor save even its pastel baby coins.

From the trenches of the Café by the Ruins ladies, who gave up on the mines ("misery loop" is how they've called it), she found the desired object. Later, she learned it was made of pewter. It's a sturdy plastic wrapping for the powder line of dynamites and considered the safest blasting material in big mines. Pewter comes in light orange, red, pink, yellow, white or light blue so they're visible inside the mine.

Miners brought out these non-biodegradable wrappers, cut and rolled them at home and wove them, using traditional techniques, into panditing. They were resourceful enough to also use pewter to bind such handicrafts of trendy.

## Growing phenomenon

Perez teamed up with fellow cultural worker photographer Raul Bimayog to gather these newfound artisans and artists of the Cordillera for a ground-breaking exhibit, "Everyday Objects," at the Pitti Gallery of the BenCab Museum on Asin Road, Tuba, Benguet. It runs around the viewer's perception on the distinction between art and craft.

The two curators called the exhibit their "way of thinking out loud between." They have no "official art," the kind for everyday and ritualistic use, in a space usually devoted to artifacts and the fine arts.

They insisted that these objects are not forgotten or gone artifacts. They were they signs of the decline of Cordillera culture because the makers did not use natural materials.

Perez said: "The culture is dieting because the people are innovating. They are still keeping the traditional skills like weaving alive."

She and Bimayog said it was reinforcement that their environmental advocacy entered the picture since most materials used were recyclables.

Bimayog told of how he, Perez and Ines Nicolas, artist Kawayan de Guia linked for three months and involved them in a series of workshops that led to the show.

They discovered the growing phenomenon of using recycled materials: Ifugao and tattoo artist from gin bottles; slippers and clothes lines used integrally; dolls and blazers from various materials of Ifulgao textiles; tapestries from plastic bags.

## Salvaged from junk

Bernardo Bimbadoren, a sidewalk vendor on Bonifacio Street, Baguio, sells candles and cigarettes. During lulls, she weaves mats in different sizes of up to 18 ft x 30 ft, using plastic drinking straws.

Psychologist Aget Mendoza of the Philippine Military Academy has become known for an avocation that he teaches and demonstrates at public and private schools: collecting used plastic bags and ironing them into tapestries and "plastics" paintings. He gently applies a flatiron to create textures like woven mats or tables.

Jennings "Jeth" Bilabay of La Trinidad, Benguet, stitched a mandala and the exhibit visitor statement as a mixing (but) canvases built salvaged from a junk heap.

Sofia Cordillera, gangs are part of image and media, but Jerome and Irma have become

ASSEMBLAGE by Kawayan de Guia, from discarded wood carvings

MUSING with cargo straps and glow-in-the-dark stickers as mirror wearing it is visible

CABINET statement carved, tinted, then laid out on floor, also made of junk canvases dark material

BLAZER sewn by Bokadilla from scrap textiles

PLAY sheets used for small-scale mining turned into gang by Alan Joaquin

COLLABORATION of Carlo Villaluerra and Irene Bower using mixed Ifulgao dolls, frames, bottle crowns

MANDALA carved by Lady Pilatoy from junk canvas on left

PEREZ and Bimayog model pedang of nontraditional materials

ROSARIO Dalandanan wears mats cut of plastic straws

TABLE made of gin bottles with lace of workers who responded to

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## Rethinking the ugly

Ulama Bobadilla, the only Manila-based artist, uses shells and bags which have made their way to weaklead markets in Makati and department stores. What sets them apart is they're made from inlay shop (secondhand) clothing materials, like trade bags dolls (or non-granny figures, nonmostly called dolls in other places) from Cordillera issues.

Dr Gaza's contribution is a corner of rejected, rotting wood carvings from Asin shops. He turned these into an assemblage that he painted a metallic Ferrari-red.

Bimayog said when the makers of these objects turned up on the opening, "they felt legitimized because their works ended up in a space like that."

Perez added: "We're thrilled with the feedback. People are realizing that they are called these objects." She overheard them say, "Parati pala pala, si. Maganda pala sila. (They can be done. They're beautiful.)"

She and Deirdre McKay a Canadian anthropologist with a long relationship with the Cordillera and who's been on sabbatical that she visited the exhibit, "Everyday Objects" runs until June 17. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Korean Air Announces Daily Flights Between Seoul Incheon & Jeju Island Vacation Spot

SEOUL, South Korea (March 12) – Beginning March 27, Korean Air will offer more convenient connecting flights between Incheon International Airport in Seoul and Jeju Island, a favorite vacation spot located off the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula.

Jeju Island recently was named one the "New 7Wonders of Nature," along with the Amazon, Halong Bay, Iguazu Falls, Komodo, Puerto Princesa Underground River and Table Mountain. The volcanic island is Korea's largest island, credited primarily to its lush mountain, Hallasan, a dramatic-looking dormant volcano that rises over a mile above sea level. The people of Jeju have developed a culture and language distinct from those of mainland Koreans, and the island is famous for its matriarchal family structure, symbolized by the "sea women" who make a living from deep-sea diving for harvest marine products.

Korean Air's new service will be operated by B737-800 aircraft with 149 seats. The flight will depart Incheon International Airport daily at 19:05 and arrive just over an hour later in Jeju Island at 20:40. The return flight departs daily at 21:05, Jeju Island at 21:55 returns to Seoul Incheon International Airport at 18:05.

With the launch of this new route, Korean Air can conveniently connect passengers from its extensive global network to Jeju Island via Incheon International Airport. Its award-winning hub with easier access, it is expected that Jeju Island will become a more attractive holiday and vacation destination to international travelers and travel planners.

## Korean Air to Introduce Direct Flights to Nairobi Starting June

*Air travel between Northeast Asia and Africa becomes more convenient*

SEOUL, South Korea (February 29) – Korean Air will launch nonstop service on June 27 from Seoul Incheon to Nairobi in Kenya. Korean Air will become the first airline that operates direct flights from the Korean Peninsula to Nairobi, the gateway to East Africa as well as the hottest destination in Central and South Africa.

Korean Air's new service to Nairobi will be operated by A330-200 aircraft with a total capacity of 228 seats. KE068 will depart from Seoul Incheon every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 22:10 and arrive at Nairobi at 06:30 on the next day. As for the return flight, KE069 will depart from Nairobi at 13:30 every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and will arrive in Seoul Incheon at 04:00 on the next day.

"The launch of Korean Air's nonstop service between Seoul Incheon and Nairobi is not only an exciting addition to the airline's global network, but also serves as a catalyst in facilitating travel between Northeast Asia and Africa. With only 10 hours of flying time, it will offer passengers the ultimate convenience in travelling between the two cities. The launch of this new route also means that both business and leisure travelers will be able to enjoy utmost comfort and ease during the journey," said Kenneth Kihoon Ahn, senior vice president Korean Air's Managing VP for Europe, Middle East & Africa, Mr. Jaeho Ahn.

Kenya in the center of East Africa where numerous international intergovernmental organizations are based including UN-Habitat, United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the United Nations Office and UN-Habitat.

Nairobi is home to an array of tourist attractions. Nairobi, named as the "Safari Capital of the World", it has several national parks where visitors can experience an intimate and authentic wildlife and nature encounters such as Serengeti, Amboseli National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve. In addition, Zambezi River, the fourth-longest river in Africa, as well as Victoria Falls, which is designated as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, are both located on the border of the countries of Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also, Republic of Mauritius and Seychelles, two of the most popular leisure destinations with luxurious resort areas, are located not far away from Kenya.

Korean Air has been serving major destinations in Africa through codesharing with Kenya Airways, one of the SkyTeam alliance members. Passengers who purchase tickets from Korean Air and fly with Kenya Airways can also earn Korean air mileage. Along to the launch of new route to Nairobi as well as maintaining a close partnership with Kenya Airways, Korean Air will continue to provide passengers with a convenient schedule and wide network to Africa via its award-winning hub Incheon International Airport.

# Lopez Museum will move to Rockwell

By Walter Ang
Core Status

THE LOPEZ Memorial Museum and Library, currently located in Benpres Building in Pasig City, will transfer to Rockwell Center, Makati City.

The museum will be in the Lopez Tower and Museum Building once the structure is completed in 2014.

The Lopez Museum was founded in 1960 by Eugenio Lopez, Sr. and started out in Pasay City in a building designed by Angel Nakpil (since demolished) before moving to Pasig in 1983. From sugar holdings in Bicol, industrialist Lopez Sr. grew his family's wealth mainly through businesses in different industries.

The Lopez Tower building broke ground in a ceremony that included the lowering of a time capsule led by Lopez Holdings Corp. chair emeritus Oscar Lopez and chair Manuel Lopez. Manuel is also chair of Rockwell Land, developer of the building.

The contents of the time capsule include eight pieces of polished coins, a newspaper and plans for the Lopez Tower and Museum such as renderings and floor plans.

## For the people

When the museum moves to the Lopez Tower, it will gain double its current floor space in Pasig, with the tower's first six floors used. Rooms earmarked for the museum.

Mercedes Lopez-Vargas, museum executive director and granddaughter of Lopez Sr., said: "The Lopez Museum in Rockwell Center is envisioned to be a relevant contemporary space. We want people to be able to access and interact with our collections and exhibits."

She listed the museum's different components for the public: its library has always been open to the public; it always rotates pieces from its permanent collection for display and regularly hosts exhibits of new works; and it also holds lectures and workshops on various topics year-round.

She noted the museum's external interior design would exist as "the interior experience." Its location in the 13.5-hectare Rockwell Center development marks it as a center point that complements the area's high-rise upscale residential towers, Rockwell Club country club and Power Plant Mall.

The building will have 10 stories and is intended to be the new headquarters of some of the Lopez companies, housing offices for businesses in industries such as real estate, property development, power generation, and telecommunications.

The Lopez Tower and Museum building will pursue a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. LEED is a rating system developed by the US Green Building Council for the design, construction and operation of environmentally "green buildings."

## Collections

The building's "green" design will go hand in hand with the museum's efforts, working with architect Katherine de los Reyes, in researching suitable materials and designs for the museum's interiors and the best methods for the eventual transportation of its collections to maintain and enhance the museum's preservation and digitization programs for optimum preservation.

Its library collection, including books, prints and maps, features over 30,000 titles by around 12,000 authors covering almost 600 years of Philippine arts, history and culture. The oldest piece is a copy of the Boletin Lopez Doctrina en Romans from 1626.

Its art collection houses rare works by renowned painters such as Juan Luna and Felix Hidalgo. It also has works by National Artists Fernando Amorsolo, Victorio Edades, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Jose Joya and Vicente Manansala—artists whom Rockwell Center's residential towers are named after.

At Lopez Museum in Benpres Building, "Seas," an exhibit featuring the works of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, Isidro Lucas and Ernest Concepcion that contemplate the multiple meanings of the word best, such as deluge and rhythm, runs until Oct. 31.

HUMITEES Lopez and husband Manuel Lopez, Lopez Holdings Corp. and Rockwell Land chair; Oscar Lopez, Lopez Group of Companies chair emeritus; and wife Connie Lopez; Cielito Lopez Vargas, Lopez Memorial Museum and Library executive director; and Nestor Padilla, Rockwell Land Corp. president

Scale model of Rockwell Center shows the museum building adjacent to Power Plant mall.

PERSPECTIVE of façade

"OMILE"

## Abalos at Alliance Française

After receiving a three-month artist's residency in Florence, Bo Sid, researcher at the Alliance Française de Manila-Philippine Artist Residency Program (AFM-PARP), Andrea Abalos presents "Sanctuaire des Memoires" in AFM Total Gallery (206 Legaspi Centre St., Bel-Air 2, Makati; tel. 8867587; www.alliance.ph) until May 31. Inspired by her trip, she presents an autobiographical take on memory in etchings, woodcuts, paintings, mixed-media works and installations.

"Walay Ma," by Ernesto Concepcion

## Luna, Concepcion at Lopez Museum

Rafel Luna and Ernest Concepcion team up for the exhibit "Real." Luna does installations while Concepcion stages "performative art duets." Curated by Edwin Legaspi-Ramos with artistic direction provided by Dian Herrera Jr., "Real" focuses on wordplay and visual meanings. It runs until October in Lopez Memorial Museum (G/F Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig; tel. 6351241).

## Visual Arts

From page D3

### Turao at Mendez

Cyril Turao showcases 30 watercolor paintings in Mendez Gallery (2/F Robinsons Place, Manila; tel. 8521-8480/81).

"Sinaunang Hari Hagdanan," by Mark Cadora

### Group show at Altro Mondo

"Preserving the Future" runs until May 30 in Altro Mondo Arts Contemporanea (St. Benedict 15, Ayala Center, Makati; tel. 501 2079/73; e-mail altromondo.relations@yahoo.com; www.altromondo.com.ph). The group show features paintings and sculptures by Allen Crispin, Normelen Decena, Bimbon de la Cruz, Sunelle Dal, Rose Mira, Christopher Zamora and the show's curator, Leslie de Chavez.

## Shows at West Gallery

Ernest Concepcion's "Pain + Digs", Pow Martinez's "Low-Res", Jorge Bandoy's "Subterranean Post Dots on Paper", Joan Cabanigan "Would that Where" are shows ongoing until June 4 at West Gallery (69 West Ave., Quezon City; tel. 411 0338, 411 0021; www.westgallery.ph)

Concepcion calls his works experiments or photo-based and landscape portraiture, rendering fantastical environments that emerge from his memories in Filipino, American and Japanese visual cultures, from comics to anime and video games.

Martinez plays with bright colors, bold strokes, rich textures and clouds images. His works in acrylic on paper are on sale on the pieces, giving collectors a front-row glimpse into the artist's artistic interests and visual preferences.

Bandoy features works in oil, acrylic and bronze.

Cabanigan paintings explore alternate "what if" scenarios. While gravitating to most personal memories and experiences, he manages to touch on universal themes within the intimate confines of the gallery space. One of his inspirations is his parents' love story.

"Rose Munji-Laurel" (pyrography), by Miriam Jose

### José's Rose Munji-Laurel

In search of the perfect 11th anniversary gift for his wife Rose Munji-Laurel, actor Francis Lauriel commissioned Rodel 10.1-artist Miriam Jose to make a portrait of Rose. He employed the technique "Pyrography," which is the process of creating freehand images on wood by using the "Cal" (0286/8, 0917-5972/5/09; e-mail studio1510.phil@gmail.com; visit www.facebook.com/www.studio1510.com).

### Gerry Tan at Magnet

"Mixed Pages, Mini Collages and Collage-Based Paintings," a solo exhibition of painter and mixed-media artist Gerardo Tan, runs until June 9 in Magnet Gallery (2/F Agora Bldg., Kalayaan Ave., Barangka Ilaya, Mandaluyong City; tel. 0917.2018.826; e-mail info@magnetgallerytwo.com). Ten "references" the book or magazine pages from which the images for his collages and collage-based paintings were mined.

"SECOND Movement," by Poe Martinez

"YAHAI"

## Orencio at Looking for Juan Gallery and Garden

THE CENTER for Art, New Initiatives and Sustainable Development (CANSID) is launching the new Looking for Juan Gallery and Garden in Quezon City with an inaugural show, "Gardello," an exhibit of works by Jun Orencio.

Looking for Juan Gallery and Garden is at No. 7, Quezon Drive Extension, Alpha Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

E-mail alphaarena.ph at yahoo! dot com; tel. 8927 3686/73.

"PAHWA"

"SALAYSAY"

# LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

## Haruki Murakami's big book

*Outlasting Apocalypse: 'The Survivors' by Antonio Enriquez*

SEE STORY ON PAGE E2

Starry, starry night provides backdrop for Onib Olmedo's 75th birth anniversary exhibit in Bacolod

SEE STORY ON PAGE E4

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL LARAGA

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVEBYTES — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

BIRD MACHINE — BY RAMON ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TAGBOX — BY MARA COLL

## HOROSCOPE

BY Pilarica S. Cabanez

**TODAY'S STARS:** Favorable aspects for Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, Libra, Aquarius and Gemini. Because of close relationships and helpful partners, you're successful. You're a people person. Your charm and personable ways are a big help. You make great impressions. You're a born diplomat. Be sure that everybody is treated fairly. Be considerate. You may get an opportunity to travel. Be open to new opportunities. Be sure to say thank you. Your family will come to you. Work hard to balance romance and socializing in the near future because your rewards come with hard work.

**Birthdate of:** Janet Daley, novelist; Thomas Eakins, artist; Sarah Fuentes, athlete.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 20):** Today you are on cloud nine! You're almost overwhelmed because you're full of energy, making video memories. You gotta have it all, but like a child, because you know you're in the zone.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You really will see the big picture in something you look at or discuss today. You also will communicate more clearly and understand other people's viewpoints.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** A word of warning: Be careful when you feel happy, content and enthusiastic about life today. Essentially, it's natural to give your positive traits.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Planning activities will be rewarding and appeal to you. Accept invitations from others. It's time for all the things!

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Communication will increase and you, teachers and VIPs will be extremely positive today. Your ideas are unique and appeal to others.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Good plans are evolving. You're motivated to see your best personal opportunities. You're in a position to help others. Your ideas are unique and you're good with hard information. Your enthusiasm appeals to others' plans and anything having to do with medicine excites you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Keep your positive spin. Be more others and be generous to you today. You'll get an opportunity to discuss how to share or divide something. Essentially, it's natural to give your positive traits.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Communications with friends and partners are extremely positive and productive today. In part, this is because people feel generous in each other.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** This is a wonderful day at work. Meetings with co-workers will be positive and successful. Work-related travel is also favored.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Make sure having fun is part of today. Social activities with children. Stress will be minimized. Confidence in your abilities is also enhanced.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Your family gatherings will be especially fun today because everyone is in a good mood. Happy will be generous and appreciative of each other, which makes the time for a busy get-together.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Because you're full of positive thoughts today, you're able to make your day and others. Don't worry. Be thoughtful. Start saying the word, and from the word springs. Be clear. Enter the transformative habit, which is already handsome in character. Thoughts accomplished!

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

All the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at: www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | | 4 | 3 | | 9 |
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| 3 | 8 | | | | | 7 | | 1 |
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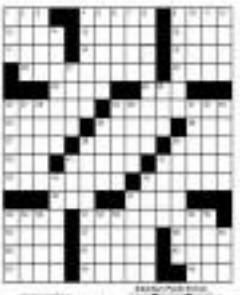
Difficulty Level: ★

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



# Haruki Murakami's big book

By Rust S. De Vera

EITHER DUE to ambition or page count, certain books tend to be up-proached like projects by readers. Like size and scale, these cannot be expected to bolster the same way as the more novel books. The greater the ambition, the greater the page count, the more readers have to prepare themselves in devote time and effort to be able to finish reading such monoliths.

All of this is especially true of Haruki Murakami's most recent novel, "1Q84" (translated by Jay Rubin and Philip Gabriel; Alfred A. Knopf/Vintage Books, 2011; 925 pages). The wildly popular Japanese futurist already holds reality and in his poetic prose, but "1Q84" is his thickest, most ambitious book to date. The book's visionary precursor is due to the fact that it was originally published in Japan as three separate volumes from 2009 to 2010.

As for the story of "1Q84" itself, it is a many-branched tale of romance, science fiction and not just a little weirdness. It possesses many characters, but the story hinges that it would have abandon completely and then pick up new ones towards the end, all of it distilled in Murakami's lovely if sometimes overly precious prose.

It is the year 1984, and a woman named **Aomame** spends her time as an assassin, killing men who are guilty of domestic violence. But as she departs from one such assignment, she rides a cab, getting off near a highway where she finds a hurt that leads to somewhere else.

"After you do something like that, the everyday look of things might seem to change a little," the cab driver remarks later. "Things may look different to you than they did before. But don't let that fool you."

She finds that she is now in another world, one with two moons, a world very similar to her own except for some subtle but important differences. Aomame dubs this new world "1Q84," with the "Q" meaning a question mark. "Like it or not, I'm here now, in the year 1Q84. The 1984 that I knew no longer exists. The air has changed. The atoms has changed. I have to adapt to this world with a question mark as soon as I can. Like an animal released into a new forest."

Also finding himself in the same world is the seemingly ordinary **Tengo**, a man who teaches at a cramming school to students to be a writer. When an editor friend urges him to rewrite a stunning schoolgirl novel written by Fuka-Eri aoiko, "Air Chrysalis," a highly enigmatic 17-year-old named Fuka-Eri, Tengo finds himself in a strange world where fiction may not altogether be untrue.

## Convoluted

That's the simple version. The actual story contained in "1Q84" is much more convoluted and convoluted, depending on your outlook, a somewhat epic tale of paranormal tragedies, romantic destiny mixed with fate, the cult phenomenon and mysterious religious entities called the Little People, among many others.

In short, destinies and Tengo (and sometimes find a way to escape all that pursues them) in this strange parallel world. While it is enough for Murakami followers, any read, or without a supernatural amount of patience may not be able to finish "1Q84."

As enigmatic as it is formidable, the Japanese author's '1Q84' is a showcase for his lovely prose as well as a sheer reading challenge due to its length and ambition

Finishing "1Q84" is a particularly formidable task because the book starts slow, then gets even slower in the middle went as it unleash valuable exposition and only gains speed right near the end. Nevertheless, it is an immersive story, once you see through the paragraphs and once read completely, deems as an enigmatic achievement as well as a sheer physical undertaking.

It is as heavy a dose of Haruki Murakami as you can get, with "1Q84" as an overloaded example of his trademark themes. It is as Tengo himself observes: "Time stopped, and the world ended. The earth ground slowly to a halt, and all sound and light vanished. When he woke up the next day the world was still there, and the things were already moving forward, like the great barrels refused of Italian mythology that kills every living thing in its path."

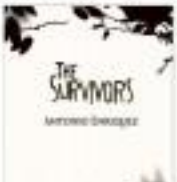
*Available in hardcover from National Book Store.*

LG
Enduring Cool and Freshness with Durachill this Summer!
It has been one of the hottest summer, the Philippines have experienced. It is no wonder that a lot of us rush to our kitchen to get our cool drinks and immediately deposit in our refrigerators all market products to maintain freshness and prevent food wastages.
However it becomes an immediate problem if we experience sudden close outs and power outages that our food saving is suddenly not all. With this in mind, LG introduces a unique feature of its 2-door Refrigerators, the LG Durachill.
LG Durachill maintains optimum cooling inside the refrigerator for up to 2 hours*, even during power outs. Developed with a special gel material, it minimizes loss of cooling and prevents food items from getting spoilt. Also, its unique placement on the freezer top provides uniform cooling with a "shower" effect.
LG Durachill also becomes very handy this summer as you can bring it along with you inside your coolers and maintain the freshness of the food and drinks your bring with you to the beach.
LG Durachill is truly a 2-in-1 way of keeping your food cool and fresh this summer season.
*Under normal cabin temperature
2-in-1 Durachill
Worry-Free Blackout
Travel on-the-go
Join our FLY for FREE Promo!

# Outlasting Apocalypse: 'The Survivors' by Antonio Enriquez

By Bernard Carlo R. Lorenzo
Contributor

Set in Zamboanga 1945, 'Survivors' pits a band of town and cityfolk against the confusion and barbarity of a world war seemingly gone stale




ZAMBOANGA PICTOPRINT and 2000 bestselling Asia White Invisible Man-ila Dantagna lavender-like lavender-ish science fiction-fantasy-mystery with "The Survivors" (University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, 2011).

Set in Zamboanga 1945, "Survivors" pits a band of town and cityfolk against the confusion and barbarity of a world war seemingly gone stale.

Protagonist Señor Paulo Bocarro-jo's points of view holds the whole tale together as he and his devoutly religious wife, the ingenious-minded seamstress Amparo, the eccentric Father Ed dive a vivacious na-tive widowed by the war, a lady-wielding boy, and a girl orphaned by the Japanese, brave eight souls in all, including bombing, pre-scious flora, marauding Japanese soldiers, and man-eating natives in search of a way back to civilization at the closing years of World War II.

Enriquez takes good advantage of his native fiction with his deft handling of Spanish and Chabacano dialogue which seamlessly blend with the language of the novel, thus furthering the authenticity of the reading experience. Just although the theme is a definite dead-ringer for the wartime stories Filipinos have from their grandparents, the level of detail to dramatic moments, the interplay and the machete gain moments pacing give a very contemporary touch to the work.

## Into the wild

Central to the literary appeal of "Survivors" is its bold questions re-volving around war: How far will people go to survive? When god really answers prayers? What good is really there in misery?

Readers should therefore be wary before judging the almost barebones narrative which for one is easy on the eyes but a monolithic sheer about the ugly acting complex issues and stories without much mental contemplation. Representative of this effort is the near absence of how the author depicts the clash of Christian morals and unbridled animal instincts in the face of-tentacles must face after their people's time with the cliff dwellers.

"The Survivors" employs the language of what appears to be a true symbol hour of nightmare remains-scenes by a war veteran—a style which really sets up the more graphic and details because that is all that the mind of a beleaguered man will hold in times of emergency—in order to make the rest of the story stand out in greater contrast to the central issues on the subject matter.

There is no question that Enriquez has achieved the almost genuine vi-sion of fantasy with this novel, but the illusion of verisimilitude is at times broken when the book breaks into-ruptures of its own poignant prose-tapes that are ideally reserved for the midwifery of the reader's own contemplation, as when Paulo says after saving his wife from the visceral sight of grotesque fauna devouring smaller ones: "Was she thinking what I was thinking? Even here, the biggest and the strongest devour and deliver the smallest? That there's a ruthlessness we to live, and somehow, though cruel and helpless, the smallest now-ness to exist here, together . . . and on elsewhere."

## Lighting the way

"Color," as exhaustive descriptions are sometimes called, most often is reference to places, demands moder-nists in its use just as any other literary embellishment does.

"The Survivors," however, speaking of a lot all land almost unknown to Imperial Manila, could have done a great service by detailing a tone of Zamboanga's wilderness—the obscu-rity of the story's birdplace to the world makes each bit of description a piece of good news about a realm of adventure.

Sure, some parts of the novel give color to the travel destinations of its dramatis personae during moments-tous scenes, but most of the descriptions smack of textbook memorizer where a reader could have been safe-ly awed with poetic imagery.

The novel gives much promise to the telling of a Philippine historical genre often relegated to dull and re-spectful repetition not only because the novel involves new ground on its little-known setting but also because of its riveting action sequences, some-thing seldom seen in this jurisdiction.

Whenever Enriquez sets to put au-rium on the page, the reader is effec-tively catapulted into a noisy bend-o'clair with leaping clouds of ash and the metallic kiss of Japanese sabers climbing out of scabbards, all under a fiery strolling sun of 30-caliber slugs raining from Mitsubishi P-38s.

And even when the novel is not making you run for your life, its pas-sages can still tug many emotional chords like in instances of its culinary tips for cannibals, or when Father Ilenan-vaja thinks to himself: "I willed it in my mind as hard as I could, with all my power, for the food to stay down, down in Ilenan's guts. I willed, hold it, or we'll be on the cliff dwellers' final plates if you throw up. Keep it down, down."

"The Survivors" poses its incisive queries on the human condition and in limbo while taking its audience on a ride through the paradise found in Zamboanga and the answers will come to the end sure for your own.

*"The Survivors" is available at Adi-darylaBookstore (Pedro Faura, Ermita, Manila; tel. 2541068; 2541086) and Medicard Book store, cell 1507 Publishing House (733-3322, 4961312 loc. 252, 276).*

# Fellows of UST national art criticism workshop bared

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas is holding the 4th UST Visweknas J. Elizalde Navarro National Workshop on Criticism in the Arts and the Humanities (JENC) on May 27-June 2 at Colleges Hotel in Baguio City.

Awarded fellowships are Rommel Q. Rolando (University of the Philippines Diliman); John Andrew M. del Prado (UST); Orestes Ignacio Elizalde (Mapua Institute of Technology); Miguel Augustin Lizada (Ateneo de Manila University); Renato Lucas (UST Conservatory of Music); Tam Randal Nerves (University of San Carlos); Hadzar Ebrahim R. Pahajar (UST); Wilfrido Heruela (UP Diliman); Rabindranath S. Dulos (Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology); Adrian Somera (UST); Lessa Joi A. Bautista (Ateneo); Ryle Matthew Sarmiento (UST); and Ora Narayan A. Valerio (UP Los Baños).

Panel discussants include Rebecca T. Alumnaro (Miriam College/UST); Dean V. Cumpenanon (Ateneo/UST Graduate School); Cary Davilla (Ateneo); Robert Diaz (Writer/ Lawyer (University-Canada); Ralph Joshua Galan (UST); Antonio Vila (UST); Allan Isaac (Ateneo University); Francelina Parajo-Legaste (UP-Diliman); Ferdinand M. Lopez (UST); Delan Lopez Rebellon (Artery/Canvas art groups); Lila Madrid (Asian Institute of Management); Lulu Torres (Ateneo and NCCA National Committee on Literary Arts); and Lito Zu-lueta (Ateneo and Rufino writer).

JENC is organized by the Institute, the 44-year old official student organ of UST. It is held in honor of the late National artist for the Visual Arts and art critic J. Elizalde Navarro, who was art editor of the Varsitarian during his student days.

The writer's workshop is co-sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Call Gabi at 0928-9208609 or e-mail ralphjoshuagalan@gmail.com. Applicants who did not make the cut this year are encouraged to apply again next year.

*New Rony V. Diaz novel to be launched at Solidaridad*

"QUITA T' POBE," the third and last part of Rony V. Diaz's three-part novel, "Cantilena for Three Women," will be launched on May 26 at Solidaridad Bookshop at 5 p.m.

"Cantilena" gathers in one volume "de Siler's End," "The Adventures of Candida," and "Quita t' Pobe." It is an historical novel that speaks to the present state of Philippine society.

It is published by the book division of the Manila Times.

The launch is jointly sponsored by the Philippine PEN and the Manila Times.

The author will be present to sign the first copies of the novel.

The publicity welcome. Call 2511068, 2512086; e-mail solidbookshop@yahoo.com

IMAGE Pellegrini Nissi Alvarado, Gilda Puey, Dessa Marcelo, Rodjin Cuenco at Ge'ah, Mayor de Lazaro, Ramina Olmedo, Mayor Bing Leonardia, Charles Lazaro

# Starry, starry night provides backdrop for Onib Olmedo's 75th birth-anniversary exhibit in Bacolod

IT WAS a lovely summer evening. There had been a sudden downpour, bringing a welcome respite from the sweltering heat and a shower of raindrops on the parched sugarcane fields of Bacolod.

Before it pale... the sun stopped and, shortly after, a drove of moon appeared in the sky, with a sprinkling of stars that looked so bright, onlookers felt as if they could literally touch each of them.

The whole scene looked like a Van Gogh painting for a modern poster of the historic city of Bacolod. The city's rustic charm had not been diminished by the modern amenities of an urban lifestyle, such as shopping malls and gated subdivisions.

It seemed like nature had conspired to produce a perfect setting for the opening night of the exhibit of an artist who remains well-loved by the community of his hometown, Negros, in this vibrant and progressive southern city.

Onib Olmedo is acclaimed by critics as a major figurative representational artist of the 20th century, whose works are considered by international connoisseurs that have made a significant contribution to the development of art in the Philippines.

He garnered all the major local awards in his lifetime, as well as a coveted prize at the prestigious international competition in Cagnes Sur Mer, France—the very first Filipino to be accorded such a distinction.

His impact on the art scene has continued to thrive, as the progression of artists who are self-confessed Olmedo disciples, producing works inspired by their iconic distinctive style.

## Homecoming

The late Onib Olmedo came back to the city where he had held a show two decades ago in the galleries of his good friend, the late artist Lisa Ireneo. It was his family's way of celebrating Onib's 75th birth-anniversary and bringing his art to a wider and more outside Metro Manila.

This time, the exhibit was held at the art gallery-cum-restaurant of one of Bacolod's young art-loving couples, Quebec and Myrna Lazaro-go, a posh and quaint gallery called Isalia is a term, essentially designed fine-dining resto, tucked away on the corner of 32nd Ave. and San Agustin St.

The media and the paparazzi had descended upon the exclusive gallery-resto, over what may probably the biggest art event of the season in Bacolod City.

Gracing the occasion were Onib's widow Serena and eldest daughter Ronda, who had flown in from Manila for the special occasion.

The Arts of Bacolod society were also there to celebrate the occasion with Onib's family. The mayor of the city, Bing Leonardia, did the honors for the ribbon cutting. He was accompanied by elegant wife Elna, and vivacious daughter Kara, who was taking a multi-level course at St. Scholastica in Pasay City. (A La Salle University in Manila.

Charlie Cojuangco, a well-known Olmedo aficionado, came all the way from the Cojuangco Hacienda in Pantabangan, 40 km from the Negros of Bacolod. Among other guests were guests were: former Rep. John Ong, Julius Delos, director of the Senate and chief of Bacolod's major hospital; Joseph Tiffana Gonzales, lawyer, writer and art enthusiast Emi Cebu, who flew in just for the exhibit; Glenn Rhaven Ia, Ascendente and owner of Peachy's Restaurant; Nikki Ortiles, Mandaya Quezon III [!]; Negros society writers Eduardo Garcia and Raidjer Carion, and Bacolod's lifestyle editor in chief Eli Tajanlangit.

## Reception

Charlie and Mimy X. de Lazaro-go had their hands full, entertaining the guests and attending personally to every detail of the reception, where champagne flowed and the guests could help themselves to a spread of pasta marinara, paella, wood-fired pizza, baked oysters.

Myrna's parents, Mario and Daniela Valderrama, were also entertaining their 70th wedding anniversary that day celebration marked the 11th anniversary of the Isalia restaurant. Ma Valder-rama looked stunning in her black palazzo pants matched with a sequin-studded blouse embedded with sequins—a designer outfit bought by her sister in California.

Sidney Pellegrini, who had cut the ribbon during Olmedo's Baguio exhibit in the '80s, told everyone that she was lucky to meet Onib in person and acquire his paintings two decades ago.

Gilda "Ging Ging" Fargas Puey commented how happy she was that she had landed dozen in Bacolod—a city there was no traffic and no pollution. Gilda had retained the dusty good looks that made her a standout among the cologirls on the campus of St. Theresa's College in Manila during the '50s.

Cojuangco's nephew Ivanito Barrera—a teacher-entrepreneur based in Australia—popped in later, in time for the stimulating conversation over a delicious dagupan siren...talk that included a wide range of topics, from art to glossy magazine covers, all the way to modern technologies for the preservation of wine's taste.

A selection of the artist came in the exhibit to pay homage to their master, featuring in his "soul portraits" and his still lifes. Among them were Stanislaus Alvarado, Rodney Martinez, Dennis Asedon and Orville Valdueza.

The art world was also represented by Pitchie Ireneo, director of the Ateneo Art Gallery, with wife Raven, president of Salcedo Auctions. Art curator Lisa Clubbanon, who will be joining Singapore Art Gallery in August, came to the exhibit with her boyfriend, Manny Montelibano, a video-installation artist.

The exhibit opening was a pleasant way to spend a Saturday evening—with the warm atmosphere of family, friends, businessmen, government officials and media reps, coming together to celebrate the life of a great Filipino artist.

BEFORE the ribbon-cutting—Charlie Cojuangco, Bacolod Mayor Bing Leonardia, Onib Olmedo's widow Serena and Bacolod Arts Society president Ramina Olmedo

RAMINA Olmedo, Thomas de Lazaro-go

ARTIST EXECUTOR Edward Lucero Garcia, Eli Tajanlangit

RICHIE Lorina, Karen Lorina, Pam Valderrama

# Book on mental illness

THE BOOK "Gray" revolves around people suffering from chronic mental illnesses. They find themselves trapped in a wasteland where they do not age and cannot die. Constantly terrorized by the locals, a revolution looms. When a boy falls from the sky, all believe he is the symbol of salvation, but he proves otherwise.

At such a young age, Ronin Fernandez has already achieved a lot. He's been a representative of Mensa International-Philippines, a high-IQ society, and both an Ateneo and a University scholar. He has been a consistent awardee since preschool, with both academic and extracurricular recognitions.

"Gray" is a childhood creation edited to completion five years later. The novel was published in 2011, by Central Books. Supply using the Publish On Demand (POD) service, the layout and most affordable way to self-publish your book. "I especially recommend it for authors because they offer so much assistance they can along the way while allowing the author to take full control of the publication and distribution of his/her book," Fernandez states, sharing his experience with Central Books.

Publish On Demand started more than six years ago, to make self-publishing affordable and easy. Central Books has been in the print and publishing industry for 75 years and introduced the POD service to help authors concentrate on what they do best, writing.

"Gray" can be purchased at Central Books stores nationwide and on its online bookstore (www.centralbooks.ph). For more information about the Gray and Central Books' Publish On Demand, visit www.central.com.ph or call 3723100 local 29.

# New titles from OMF Literature

THE BOOK "What Good Is God?" by best-selling author Philip Yancey tries to answer the titular question by going to 18 diverse places around the world.

From is a story of grace for armchair travelers, spiritual seekers, and those in desperate need of assurance that their faith really matters.

"Inescapable Christ," by John Stott, takes a look at how the Church has portrayed Christ down the centuries, how His life has influenced people the past 2,000 years, and how He continues to be relevant today.

For the hurting, the troubled and the struggling, "It's OK To Be Not OK," by Nico Villanueva, takes a look at the human psalms and musings of the prophets to show that sadness, anger, struggles are parts of the Christian life, giving hope, solace and deeper intimacy with God.

For women who want to reclaim their heart, "Strong Women, Soft Hearts," by Paula Rinehart, talks about how women can reclaim their passion for life and go on an unpredictable but exhilarating journey with God as they follow their destiny and calling.

For people who need healing for themselves and loved ones, "What You Need to Know When You Need Healing," by Dr. Daniel Isla, explores the compassionate nature of God and how people can reconcile obstacles and meditate when it comes to healing.

For people looking for comfort, "Mga Bengales ng Diyos sa Panahon ng Takot, Lungkot, Galit gaan ATBP" and "Mga Panggako ng Diyos sa Pandemyang Galit, Takot, Kasamaan, ATBP" by Arleyn Hughes, are the Tagalized versions of "Sure Promises of Encouragement."

For teenagers looking for existential relevance with God, "Rebel," by Wade le Roux (host selling author of "Road Trip" and "Back on Track"), is a mix of personal reflections and devotional entries to energize young people while they spend quiet times with God.

For kids looking for adventure, "Isaac & Battle for Angon Palli" is the last chapter in the beloved "Isaac" series. It's the epic adventure of the young heroine and her friends as they battle evil forces while learning courage, loyalty and friendship.

"Manga Messiah" and the other books in the series ("Mocksy," "Malach," "Heaven gate" and "Restated phrase") are action-retelling of beloved Bible stories in exciting edgy Japanese manga style.

All of these titles, plus many more local, licensed and imported books, are available at OMF Lit Bookshop, Philippine Christian Book Store, Pasteurol Book Store and Powerbooks nationwide.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie G. Velarde

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SUAH Ella

# 'Manila' is star of British film

Short-film director, an Oscar and Bafta nominee, quietly finishes movie in the Philippines

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

A YEAR before the Hollywood movie "The Bourne Legacy" started shooting in Manila, a British movie directed by Oscar- and Bafta-nominated short-filmmaker Suan Ella was made in the country as well.

The movie is titled "Metro Manila" and, interestingly, features a Filipino cast led by Jake Macapagal, Alfonso Vega, Leni Miguel, Ase Abel Santos, Moises Magno, Eris Padilla, Jim Rodriguez and John Arcilla.

The idea for the film had been sparked by an incident that Ella witnessed on a Manila street when he visited in 2009.

"Beside a parked armored truck, two security guards armed with machine guns were arguing quite 'intensely,' he recalled in an e-mail interview with the Inquirer. "The confrontation ended with one guard locking the trunk. They got inside the vehicle and drove off."

Ella said he "became obsessed" with that roadside row. "I wondered what they were arguing about."

That helped him create the screenplay for "Metro Manila." He explained: "If an idea keeps coming back ... it's a story that's important enough to pursue."

Ella was nominated for an Oscar best short live action for "Cashback" in 2006, and for a Bafta best short for "The Bothersome Man" in 2009.)

Ella felt strongly about returning to Manila and shooting the film. "It's a world rarely seen abroad ... it felt so fresh to me," he said.

MANILA (1)

# PDI columnist a star on GMA Pinoy TV

By Rayant San Diego Jr.

MANONG Filipinos in the United States, Hawaii and Guamas Global Pinoy columnist Lou Tancinco has become an instant celebrity.

During an event for the noontime variety show "Eat Bulaga!" in Stockton City Auditorium in Lincoln, California, last March, the lawyer received almost as many fan requests for snapshots as comedians Jose Manalo and Allan K.

Tancinco hosts "Pinoy Pinoy sa Amerika," a legal show that tackles immigration concerns of Filipinos in America and Canada.

The show is on its seventh season, Tancinco reported. "I joined GMA Pinoy TV in 2008."

Joseph Francis "Chot" Reyes, GMA's vice president and head of operations, pointed out, "The way the channel's position early on, viewers find some solace there."

With GMA Pinoy TV's audience share growing steadily (5 to 6 million viewers and 300,000 subscribers), Tancinco's fan base has increased as well, Francis said.

Tancinco says the urgent need for a show like "Pinoy Pinoy." She explained, "If our countrymen are informed, they will not fall victim to unscrupulous people. They won't slip into the cracks and become illegal aliens." The show has become his advocacy—a way to give free legal advice to fellow Filipinos.

The most common questions that viewers ask revolve around multiple marriages. "There is no divorce law in the Philippines," Tancinco said. "When are the implications if a separated Filipino wants to marry an American citizen?"

Other important issues concern Filipinos who get trapped in abusive marriages with Americans and exploitative work situations in the US.

In her two-decade practice in the United States, Tancinco has handled cases of celebrities. Most notably, she was the counsel of actress Nora Aunor during her brief encounter days in the America. "I helped Nora get her work visa," the lawyer said.

She helped secure work permits for Filipino entertainers Dolphy and Vilma Corrales, when they had shows in the US.

When Tancinco needed a new infront last year, she turned to the plays wife Eric Quizon who swiftly said yes.

"I am learning a lot from this show," Quizon said. "My mom and sister live in the US and me sister is petitioning her three children to become immigrants to work."

Tancinco said the frequent Pinoy-Pinay, the Quizons' home event in Valkyie, Ca.

"Her office is near our turn. She always orders pinoy sweepers," Quizon said. "My husband loves it when humba," Tancinco quipped.

• • •

### 'American Idol'

Who will be the next American Idol? The grand finale airs live in Manila at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 24, on ETC, with same day replays at 6 and 9 p.m.

Prior to results night, Jessica Sanchez and Phillip Phillips will vie for America's votes for the last time during the last performance night airing Wednesday, May 25 at 6 p.m., replays at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on ETC. The program also airs on Star World. Grand finale night will be broadcast live from the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles.

### 'Marina Bay Sands 24/7'

Marina Bay Sands, the latest Singapore skyline attraction, is an "integrated resort" with over 2,500 rooms and a crew of 9,000 to keep it rolling round the clock.

"Marina Bay Sands 24/7," an eight-episode series premiering on Bio Channel on May 31, offers viewers an unprecedented look into the operations of this US$5.7 billion property.

The premiere episode, titled "Issues of Desire," reveals the inner workings of the iconic resort, told through interviews with the key characters who keep it bustling, from the chef to the bellboys. Encore June 2, 10:30 p.m.; June 7, 9 p.m. and June 9, 10 p.m.

### 'Project Runway'

Ninety-nominated reality series "Project Runway" returns on TLC on May 26 at 9 p.m.

Celebrity judges this season are Kim Kardashian, Chip and Joanna Gaines, Martin Scherman, Kerry Washington, Zoe Saldana, Adam Lambert, Idris Elba, Padma Lakshmi, Tyrese Gibson, Rachel Roy, Olivier Sarkozy and Joanna Coles.

### 'Waterfront Cities'

Also on TLC, discovery amazing "Waterfront Cities of the World"—from Marseilles to Melbourne, Bangkok to Buenos Aires—through the lenses of photographer Heidi Hollinger.

Airs Thursday at 10 p.m., starting May 26, encores Friday 9 a.m., Saturday at 4 p.m., and Sunday at 9 p.m.

### 'Combat Cash'

Military buyer Bob Chan and his picking partner Owen Thornton put their passion, expression and pockets on the line in a never-ending pursuit of rare and desirable military artifacts, a.k.a. "militaria," in Discovery Channel's brand new series, "Combat Cash."

Each episodes is packed with combat collectibles, from ranks to rare GI Joe figures, World War II Home Banners, Saddam Hussein propaganda banners and Vietnam War-era choppers.

Every new episode premieres Wednesday, 11 p.m. starting May 30 and encores Thursday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 7 a.m.

### Final 'House'

Watched by a whopping 81.6 million people in 66 countries, the multi-awarded medical drama series "House" was named the world's most popular current television program in the 2011 edition of Guinness Book of World Records.

Now, its eighth and final season airs exclusively on StarTV Tuesdays at 10:55 p.m.

The season opens with Dr. Gregory House (played by British actor Hugh Laurie) in a prison cell doing time. A medical emergency ends his sentence earlier than expected, and he quickly discovers the changes in the landscape and hierarchy of the Diagnostic Medicine department at Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital, which he previously presided over. He is forced to submit to a disciplining new chain of command.

Tomorrow, 10:55 p.m. on StarTV (Ch 21 on SkyCable), 10:55 Dream-SpecBiz and 17 on Cignal Digital TV).

THE MAKING of "Manila"

# 'Manila' is star of British film

From page F1

He wasn't even daunted by the language barrier.

He didn't speak a word of Hiligaynon, but welcomed the experience of directing a movie in a language unknown to him. "The process became all about the music of dialogue, not words. I became acutely aware of subtext ... what people don't say is far more interesting than what they do say."

Prior to embarking on this journey, he did lots of research on the country. "I made friends with Filipino film buffs. I met directors Emmanuel Red and Quark Henares and discovered national gems like 'Oro, Plata, Mata' and 'Bona.'"

In a lot of ways, the country is the star of Ellis' film. "I had never heard of Batanes (its biggest before I started doing research," he recounted. "When I saw pictures of the place, I knew I had to shoot the opening sequence there. We did the rest in Manila. The whole scenery is an itch with unique flavor that most people who have seen the film already say they feel as if they've somehow visited the Philippines."

### Grueling shoot

It was, he admitted, a grueling shoot. "We filmed for 20 days (December 2010 to January 2011). The crew was small so we could move fast—and everyone worked hard."

He conceives the highest praise for the Filipino actors. Casting, he recalled, is the second most crucial decision a director makes, next only to agreeing to make a film.

"Initially, Jake was helping us find local actors for the audition," Ellis related. After 10 minutes with Jake, I knew I had found my lead actor."

### Actor on fire

For the role of the antagonist, he wanted to hire José Mari or Bernie Bonifacio, but Jacklo had been tied up with Brillante Mendoza's "Captive."

"But when Jake auditioned (for the role of the villain) ... he was on fire. I realized he would bring to the table something I hadn't thought of. Completely. He'd be a bad guy you couldn't help but love."

Since most of the cast came from the theater world, "Everyone was super prepared and it's evident in the performances. I'm most proud of the performances. There wasn't a day on the set that wasn't fulfilling," he said.

Ayella described Ellis' touch style as collaborative: "Sean is cool. It's like working with a roommate. I really felt that I was part of the creative process. His presence at all. It was as if we were discovering new things along the way. He was a perfectionist, too, which worked well with me. He would not stop until he got the right image and angles."

Ellis returned the compliment by saying he'd work with Filipinos anytime. "I would love to find another project to do in the Philippines ... Pinoy talent rocks."

"Manila" is currently in post-production. "Editing took the best part of seven months," Ellis said. It becomes our lead to much footage."

He likewise devoted a lot of time to the music scoring. "Usually the scoring is the last thing to get done and is normally rushed. But I was able to give the composer, Hubert Tiozon, enough time he needed. Hubert has created the most beautiful, haunting and original music for the film."

The good news is that "Manila" has been picked up by independent, "one of the best sales agents in Europe."

Ellis reported that the agency snapped up the film "after seeing 20 minutes. Since then, Independence has been 100 percent behind us and the film."

### A-list fest

The filmmaker hopes to premiere "Metro Manila" in an A-list international film festival soon. Independence, which was also behind the films "We Need to Talk About Kevin" and "Mines," is eyeing Venice in September.

In the meantime, as he "heals" from the recent passing of his mother, Ellis said he was taking things easy, "catching up on sleep and spending time with family."

(bayantsandiego@hotmail.com)

# *TV stint made Phil appreciate Angel more*

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

ALTHOUGH football remains Phil Younghusband's big celebrity, he said it doesn't stop him from trying out new things when it comes to acting.

Put the first time recently, he agreed to act in front of TV cameras as a guest in the sitcom "Tuka Mam," which stars his real-life sweetheart Angel Locsin.

"I didn't realize that acting was difficult ... But it was fun. When I look back on it, it felt like a great experience. I feel very proud," the Philippine Azkals midfielder told reporters during the launch of Chelsea Soccer School. The English football club partnered with the Younghusband-Roorbach Academy to bring the schools to the country.

For the 24-year-old Younghusband, the acting stint gave him a newfound appreciation of Angel's profession.

"I admire Angel as an actress, but to see her working on the set, I was really in awe," he said. "I admire her more now, seeing what she really goes through—all the hard work."

Phil admitted he had a hard time trying to contain his excitement without words, under the glare of lights and with cameras.

He added that he needed to constantly remind himself that he's a part of a scene. Luckily, he said, Angel was there to help him through it.

"She gave me tips on how to deliver lines, how to improvise, and not to stick to the script so much. She's very supportive," he said.

Meanwhile, asked if he's willing to take more acting jobs in the future, Phil said: "If it's about promoting football ... Maybe a movie where the title story is linked to the sport. I need to be in my comfort zone."

LOCSIN and Younghusband off-cam

# Subjective TV broadcasts lack credibility

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Angelo Castro Jr. passed away, TV5's and ordinary viewers alike eulogized him as an exceptionally fine broadcast journalist. They characterized his demise as "the end of an era" in TV news and public affairs. Indeed, they don't make them like that's used to.

Angelo was cited for his objectivity and respect for news as news, rather than the outwardly fashionable "advocacies." With his good looks and signature voice, he really didn't need to "jazz up" his delivery as other less gifted newscasters and anchors feel they have to do these days to keep viewers interested.

Much less did he feel the need to "personalize" the news by opining on it or bemoaning to events he reported on. He reported the news and his viewers too much to shift the focus to himself and what he thought and felt about it.

Some people in broadcast news thought that his style of delivery was old-fast, that the TV audience wanted greater participation and "highlighting" in newscasts. This jazzing up of the news has subsequently distanced viewers from the objective report of the news itself, and the viewers have become the poorer for it.

## Pugnacious

Another criticism was that Castro reported the news in English. These days, news broadcasts in Filipino are more popular. Language aside, however, his objectivity was his strong suit, and younger broadcast reporters and anchors should bear in mind this first tenet of journalism. They should resist the pressure to perform onscreen and concentrate instead on reporting news simply and judiciously.

Broadcasting today has devolved into a style of delivery one can only refer to as [illegible] Angelo Castro Jr.'s reading example.

## Emulating Castro

When Castro was battle-test, many of today's broadcast journalists paid glowing, even emotional, tributes to him. Were they only paying lip service to their tributes or will they emulate Castro and uphold the rules of objective reporting that he represented and the true public service that he rendered?

Given the declining successes of today's TV news broadcasts, that seems like wishful thinking. But only in doing so can they put paid to the sentiments expressed in their eulogies.

Broadcast journalism is no longer what it used to be, but it is not too late for today's crop of TV broadcast "stars" to redeem themselves by emulating Angelo Castro Jr.'s exacting example.

BIEBER in Cannes, California, last week.

# Teens pick Justin, 'Idol,' 'Vampires'

TV SHOW "The Vampire Diaries" earned a leading six nominations for the annual Teen Choice awards on Friday, with Justin Bieber's movie "Believe" and "American Idol" coming in a close second with five nods apiece.

"Vampire Diaries" pushed aside blockbuster movies "The Avengers" and "The Hunger Games" to gain the most nominations in an awards show that ranges from fitness awards and favorite celebrities.

The TV drama about young bloodsuckers earned nods for best fantasy or sci-fi show, while its stars Ian Somerhalder, Paul Wesley, Nina Dobrev and Kat Graham were nominated in the acting categories.

Bieber will battle with Drake Bell and Miley Cyrus, Pitbull and country singer Blake Shelton for the best male artist award. The Canadian teen also is nominated for male hottie, shatter Taylor Lautner and haircut icon.

Adele, Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Katy Perry and Jennifer Lopez round out the female music categories. Reuters

CHAKA KHAN

## Chaka's tribute to Whitney

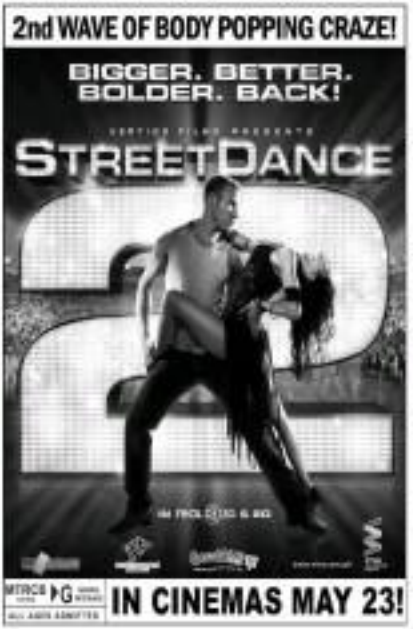
NEW YORK—Grammy award winning singer Chaka Khan will perform a tribute to the late Whitney Houston at the Apollo Theater's gala and awards ceremony.

The historic Harlem theater in New York confirmed Friday that the "I Feel for You" singer will perform in her friend's memory.

Grand Duchess and the late Tina Turner will be inducted into the theater's hall of fame during the June 4 gala.

Soul Train creator Don Cornelius and songwriter Nick Ashford will also be honored posthumously.

Our inductees include Stevie Wonder, Richard Dobson and Aretha Franklin. AP

PRELUDE TO SEDUCTION "Phantom of the Opera" abduction scene as staged in Joburg (left), and the Mandaluyong version (right) with a crossroads and a gondolier, but also with a chandelier for good measure.

# A boat ride, whether in Johannesburg or Mandaluyong...

By Edwin G. Wilkie Jr.

THE CELEBRATED plunge of a huge chandelier from theater ceiling to center stage has got to be the moment of movement in "Phantom of the Opera," right?

Well, maybe not for all. 330 million people around the world wouldn't or have seen the beloved Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. My vote goes to the boat ride.

That's when the Phantom spirits Christine away in his lair beneath the opera house, navigating a smoky lake lined with candelabra pairs and more candles... on the water? Hard to see. It's the prelude to the big seduction scene.

Johann Repfebcherger, company manager of the South African touring company that will stage the play in August at the CCP, told Filipino journalists who watched "Phantom" in Johannesburg recently: "A lot of curtain went on backstage during that scene... so much noise."

He assured us how the boat was made to "glide" across that wooden stage in Teatro Montecasino. "You just wouldn't hear it because of the music," Repfebcherger said.

I told him and resident director Anton Luitingh about a knockoff of that scene in a theater bar in Mandaluyong, Mrvn Manila. Their reva... uh, sparkled!

The Mandaluyong bar is Club Rituals, which has made dancers have fussed impression its staple attraction, with performers who are a mix of gays, girls and transgenders. The knock-off scene, set in part of the boat's running revue, "Reclaimed." However, as seen to above at right, some elements are a little askew... a mermaid, for one. And the aldoctor is dressed as a gondolier. But look, there's a chandelier over the balcony!

And when the music starts, it's "the Italian," from the movie "Shine." Whatever. When I hit the Switch African production's lead star, Jonathan Roxmouth, is on the joke, he implored, "Oh, please, we've got to see that!"

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Why Jessica Sanchez should win 'Idol'

TEAM JESSICA members Martin Nievera, Duncan Ramos, Robert Seña and Joey Generoso

DOLLY WOOD
*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

ALL ALL, the show biz maxi-mus—flatfights, twitter bashing and fawnies—Jessica Sanchez making it to the finale of "American Idol" Season 11 is a breath of fresh air. I asked some of our renowned singers why they think Jessica should win. Here goes Team Jessica!

**Lea Valdez**

Whenever I am impressed with Jessica Lubot's amazing vocal range and riveting performances, as well as with Phillip Phillips' interesting tone and originality, I feel these guys are one-dimensional performers which doesn't take credit from the impressive performance that they are. But Jessica Sanchez has the total quality, versatility and the vocal artistry in her manner of delivery that makes her stand out. From her poignant delivery of "Dance With My Father" and her effortless cornering of the melody in "You Are So Beautiful," to the full power on "I Will Always Love You" and "And I Am Telling You"... I believe she truly deserves to be declared this year's American Idol. I am one with our proud countrymen in celebrating this phenomenal young artist. She's only 16! God-willing and with the right breaks after "American Idol," we can revel in her success and remind ourselves that for one shining moment, we Pinoys were one in our support because we never doubted that, on the world stage, the Pinoy truly can."

**Luke Mejares**

Sa aabrang galing niya, wala akong masabi. Sa bawat ngo, she sings like a pro. She knows how to use her voice. Di gaya ng iba, hirit-lang nang hirit. Alabang napabilib ako nang dumating siya ng "My All" ramot-subrang konvinsido siyang niyan.

**Martin Nievera**

Jessica's voice is a kaleidoscope of brilliant colors that collide to the music, making emotions sing, dance and play. Her style is soulful and timeless. She can sing anything. The Philippine flag has never flown so high in any singing reality competition or, as far as I'm concerned, no matter how American voters, Jessica Sanchez owns the victory.

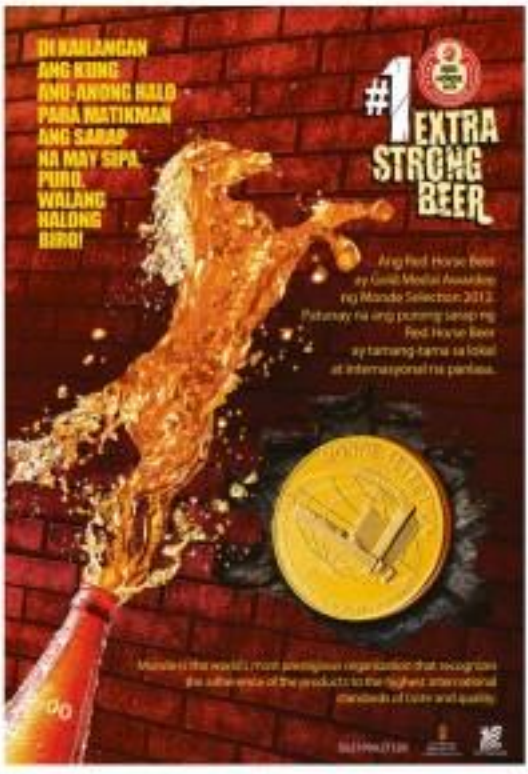
**Joey Generoso (Side A)**

The first time I watched Jessica perform, I said to myself, "May lahos ito!" I just hope no discrimination will get in the way since she's not 100-percent American.

**Robert Seña**

She will definitely win, not only because she's charming, young and soulful but also because of her Spanish, American soul, most of all, Filipino influences. Her

WHY JESSICA IS...



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# Why Jessica Sanchez should win 'Idol'

From page G1

voice is breathtaking.

### Duncan Ramos (Side A)

She has a lot of old-school influence, which has won the hearts of the judges and the fans, especially since we are all proud now of the old school with the likes of Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. Just as candy is an evidence of early maturity vocalling like musicality like character to win.

### Twitter cheers

Some comments about Jessica on Twitter caught my attention as well:

• Pinoyidol tells@ Scotland Anthem Jessica fanatics will sing it and where she's from. all to grace Pacquiao's match vs a Mexican. (pinoyidol@twitter.com)

• Jessica Sabo and Korina Sanchez ...Jessica Sanchez. Pinoy Pride in deed (ninfa_mangaoang@twitter.com)

### Sad, sad

Speaking of great singers, it's sad that we lost another icon, Donna Summer. Her "Whispering Shores" and "Winter Melody" are my all-time faves. The hype of "Grinding Hate Your" has a striking resemblance to Donna's "Four Seasons of Love" album cover. I can imagine Mare Gaerde impersonating the late Queen of Disco since Donna was the gay icon in her prime. How synonymous that her death coincided with the end of summer here in the Philippines! Thank you, Donna for the songs that will always be a big part of our "Summer Love" memories.

### True colors

I was appalled when I found out the true colors of this lady-celebrity. She tries to win public sympathy via her interviews but, in truth, she's a scheming woman out to get more than what's rightfully hers.

DONNA Summer, superstar, gone at 63. —

### Warren power

May is western empowerment month on ITC, marked by a brand-new afternoon block Monday to Friday. It starts off with Jim Lingbat at 12:05 p.m., featuring "Jagulero" Hollywood hits. Award-winning Koreanovela follows: "White Lies," 2:05 p.m.; "Love You A Thousand Times," 3:15 p.m.; "Pink Lipstick," 3:45 p.m. "Shalom Catarina/Ms. Español" starts at 4:30 p.m.

### At it again

Speaking of Showbiz, her Twitter hackers are at it again. Hope until help but (sic) because the rumors, all against her daughter KC, were allegedly posted by an ABS-CBN executive. I asked Kapamilya network big wig, Boo Enabling for an official statement about the issue. He said he wouldn't dwell.

If it is verified to be a Twitter account of the executive, then it's so sad that they are not living up to what it means to be a Kapamilya.

(E-mail: searingbalabangr@yahoo.com)


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AVENGERS 9:30 9:30

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WHAT TO EXPECT 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00

AVENGERS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

SOLO LIGHT OF DAY 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

21 JUMP STREET 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

DARK SHADOWS 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45

MONEY RETURNS 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

ABERDEEN PH 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

ALL WEEK

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:30

SAFE 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

DARK SHADOWS 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

AVENGERS 12:00, 3:00, 6:15, 9:00

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: THE AVENGERS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 (LAP)
2: SAFE 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 (LAP)
3: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 10:00 (LAP)
4: THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY 1:45, 4:00, 6:00 (LAP), 8:45, 10:00 (LAP)
5: 21 JUMPSTREET 12:00, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45 (LAP)
6: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 (LAP)
7: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 7:30, 10:15 (LAP)

GREENBELT 3

1: DARK SHADOWS 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 (LAP)
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 (LAP)
3: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 (LAP)

GREENBELT 5

1: THE AVENGERS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 (LAP)
2: DARK SHADOWS 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (LAP)
3: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 12:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45 (LAP)
4: SAFE 1:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 (LAP)
5: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING 1:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:15 (LAP)

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 6:45, 10:45 (LAP)
2: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 (LAP)
3: THE AVENGERS (2D) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 (LAP)
4: SAFE 2:15, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45 (LAP)
5: DARK SHADOWS 12:15, 3:00, 5:15, 8:15, 10:45 (LAP)

ROBINSONS GALLERIA

1: SAFE 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 (LAP)
2: THE AVENGERS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 (LAP)
3: DARK SHADOWS 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 (LAP)
4: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 (LAP)
5: 21 JUMPSTREET 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 (LAP)
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7: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 (LAP)

ROBINSONS GALLERIA

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2: 21 JUMPSTREET 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 (LAP)
3: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE 12:00, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45 (LAP)
4: SAFE 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 (LAP)

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# No romance bloomed between Lloydie, Angelica, says director

By Rhanni N. Cruz

JOHN D. Lazatin, director of "What I Did For Love," has denied the rumor that intimate bloomed between actors John Lloyd Cruz and Angelica Panganiban while filming in Vietnam for the ABS-CBN cinine production.

The rumor started shortly after Panganiban's boyfriend, bomb Sunsory admitted that he and the actress were going through a rough patch in their relationship. This was fueled by a press conference in Ireland recently by Cruz's girlfriend, Shaina Magdayao, announcing that they had called it quits.

"That's a funny rumor," Lazatin told Inquirer Entertainment. "I never saw John Lloyd make a move on Angel Panganiban's underwear; while we were in Vietnam. He was friendly with everyone. Angel was always with her gay best friend Kuni."

Once filming was done for the day, Lazatin added, the team, not just Cruz and Panganiban, would hang out the bars in Hanoi, where they stayed for a week in April.

He noted, however, that Panganiban was not above having to trash-dump in the Truly Movie. "But just said she and Derek would usually go to extremes as their antics."

Ramsay, for his part, posted this message on his Twitter account: "Guys, please don't believe any of the rumors about Angel and John Lloyd. They did scenes for a movie and that's it. That's the truth." Magdayao, to her own says, denied that Panganiban was the reason she broke up with Cruz. The actress said: "The reason is [strictly] between John Lloyd and myself."

Lazatin said shoot in Hanoi was only one of many important parts of the film. "It's there that the characters of John Lloyd and Angelica meet."

"What I Did For Love" is a romantic-comedy that delves into the many aspects of love as shown through different stories involving different characters, many of whom are shown to be connected to each other as the film progresses. The ensemble film also features Iza Calzado, Herbert Bautista, Gerald Anderson, Bim Chiu, Jake Cuenca, Polo Ravales, Maja Salvador and Pinky Amador.

"It's like I'm doing multiple movies in the same time," Lazatin said. "Another challenge here is making it look good together. They're all busy with their respective shows. Their schedules drive me crazy. I hope to give them equal exposure in the film."

The UE-based director shared: "When this project was first offered to me, the first question I asked was 'who met?' I couldn't say no to Ms. M. (Johnny Monteiro), who even took time to call me and discuss this with me." Monteiro cofounded Star Magic with Freddie M. Garcia. The film marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of the Superstar talent management group's 20th anniversary.

After having directed a number of TV shows for ABS-CBN, Lazatin debuted as a film director in 2000 with "Forever in my," starring Judy Ann Santos and Kristine Hermosa. In 2009, he directed one story in the three-part movie "Sine si Li." His last film, the drama "A Mother's Story," featuring Pokwang, was released in January 2012.

"I was thrilled with the positive reaction of people to my last project. I didn't expect to land on something this big," Lazatin said. "I have to make things happen, while shooting in and from San Francisco in California, where I now live. The process is on!"

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

JOHN Lloyd Cruz, left, was friendly with everyone, John D. Lazatin says, "and Angel was always with her gay best friend Kuni."

# Producers: Make your mind up, JLo

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Lopez and "American Idol" producers Harold Leyton and Simon Cowell Friday over the singer's future on the TV talent show that revived her career and sent her to the top of a global celebrity power list.

"American Idol" producer Nigel Lythgoe said on Friday that Lopez and Cowell "should be allowed to sign up as a judge for a third year or go off in a new direction."

## A ploy

In other news in showbiz, Lopez sparked a media frenzy this week when she said she wasn't sure about renewing her contract, and insisted there is no feud with Cowell. She said she was "just too busy" to commit to the show.

She made similar comments a year ago before signing a new two-year deal.

Lythgoe told reporters on conference call Friday that all three "Idol" judges—Lopez, Steven Tyler and Randy Jackson—had busy careers outside the talent show, but he would be happy to have them all back.

He said "Idol's" long schedule of nationwide auditions, plus four months of live shows, was tough for everyone to juggle.

Tyler's band Aerosmith has a new album coming out and a summer tour.

## Steven, too

Lythgoe elaborated: "It's not just Jennifer. It's got to fit everybody, and it's difficult. You have got to start making decisions.

Do I want to carry on doing this? Do I want to go off and make movies? She has had a wonderful resurgence—world's most beautiful woman (In People magazine), two No. 1 records—she is doing brilliant by. She is going to have to balance everything up, as is Steven. Tyler, too."

Lopez denied media reports that she had decided to quit the show after the current season ends on Wednesday. "There is no truth to reports that say I am definitely leaving," the pop singer tweeted on Thursday. "All I said was Dunda's decided what I was doing next year."

Lopez, who was dropped by her record company in 2010, was named the most powerful celebrity in the world by Forbes this week, citing record sales, multiple product endorsements and social media buzz. She starts a South American tour in July and has three movies coming out in the next 12 months.

Speculation over her future has overshadowed next week's "Idol" finale, which pits 16-year-old Indian singer Jessica Sanchez against guitar-playing indie artist Phillip Phillips, 25.

## Favored finalists

Lythgoe on Friday called both finalists "very quiet people" off stage, but said they were very focused on winning the title and a guaranteed recording contract. He said Sanchez, saved from elimination by the judges in April after getting the fewest votes, beats the public "needs a song that is going to have a major moment. Had she hits that note, that she gets us."

Phillips, who has an army of young female fans, should leave audiences and judges, Jessie Kinsey, members of the Inquirer for more world's three-song performance finale in Los Angeles, Lythgoe said.

"He has got to go out there and do something that grabs that audience and makes them stand up and pick up a telephone and vote for him... he needs to find a song that people know," he said.

The two-part "American Idol" finale will be broadcast on Fox on May 22 and 23. (Reuters)

**Eureka! pays tribute** to Isagani Yambot / H3

**International** but Pinoy education / H4

LEARNING

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# SUCs commit to bigger, better role in education

PRESIDENT Aquino and CHED chair Licuanan

By Stephen Nonias A. Padilla
Contributor

WITH no less than President Aquino as witness, the presidents of 110 state universities and colleges (SUCs) signed recently with the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), the Covenant on Philippine Public Higher Education Reform.

Aquino, speaking in Filipino, said students had been pushing themselves to enroll in universities no matter the cost only to end up unemployed after graduation.

"One million jobs have to be created every year to be able to absorb the new graduates," he said.

CHEd chair Patricia B. Licuanan enumerated some of the problems: "Higher education institutions continue to proliferate, and many are not able to provide quality programs ... Research capacity remains weak even in better performing universities."

SUC presidents, from the Mountain Province to Tawi-Tawi, committed themselves and their respective institutions to the just and implementation of the initiatives proposed in the Roadmap of Public Higher Education Reform 2011-2016.

The roadmap encapsulates Aquino's strategies for higher education reform. It focuses on nine key areas, including the number, distribution and growth of public higher education institutions, their programs offerings and their use of resources.

Also targets are the upgrading of the faculty and the modernization of developing SUCs. Through the covenant, SUCs are also looking forward to a stronger student financial assistance program, as well as an executive development program for more effective public higher education management.

## Fundamental deficiencies

Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges president Dr. Ricardo R. Rotoras led the signing. He was joined by four other SUC presidents: Dr. Olympia V. Caparas, vice president for the National Capital Region; Dr. Miriam E. Paeste, vice president for Luzon; Mar Pole Asis, vice president for Visayas; and Dr. Norberto A. Alfiler, vice president for Mindanao.

In part, the covenant stated: "We are aware of the fundamental and long-standing deficiencies of Philippine higher education: the lack of overall vision, framework and plan; deteriorating quality; and limited access."

The major objectives of the roadmap are to raise the level of educational outcomes and increase the social relevance of the SUCs' developmental functions and to expand access to quality higher education among lower income and disadvantaged groups.

## Additional funding

To advance the reform goals, Aquino had approved in December a P4.28-billion supplemental budget for SUCs, using savings from the 2011 budget.

The additional funds are good news to cash-strapped SUCs relying on budgets that have not increased in recent years.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said the money, which had been translated to CHEd, would be used for infrastructure and equipment, research, extension development and poverty alleviation scholarships.

Of the P4.28 billion, P2.612 billion will be spent on upgrading key infrastructure and facilities; P568 million in grant-in-aid (GIA) for research, development and extension; and P145 million for executive development of SUC administrators.

Some P427.8 million have been allocated for modernizing the higher education facilities of developing SUCs. CHED's Student Financial Assistance Program, which supports 62,800 undergraduate students, will have an additional P500 million to benefit 3,600 more who will enroll in priority courses like science, agriculture and fisheries, engineering and technology and entrepreneurship at leading SUCs.

Four government agencies are teaming up CHEd in the reform initiative. These are the Department of Public Works and Highways for the infrastructure and facilities upgrade, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies for research, the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the GIA program, and the Development Academy of the Philippines for the executive development program.

CHED has asked for project proposals from SUCs based on guidelines under Republic Act Nos. 7722 and 8292.

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## UMak holds summit on K to 12's advance implementation

UNIVERSITY of Makati recently conducted a summit to inform the academic community on the progress and expected problems of its advanced implementation of the Department of Education's K to 12 Program. Although UMak is just among those who were authorized by DepEd to pilot the program, the university opted to accept early grade 11 incoming students or the first year of the Program's former High School.

The school eg UMak" (HSU), a department that will oversee the senior high school under K to 12. The HSU opening is synchronized with the commencement of college students on June 11.

University president Teresa B. Lopez is explained that the senior high school will benefit the students on three issues. First, the students will have stronger foundation in core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science before entering university-oriented courses. Second, they will have clearer exposure to subjects related to their choice of profession to help them decide if they will pursue the course prior to entering college.

And third, they will be able to acquire employable skills in the event that they do not proceed to college. Under the present system where high school students graduate at age 16 or 17, their age and lack of employable skills expose them to exploitation in the workplace.

President Lopez insisted that there will be problems of adjustment in the years ahead due to the early implementation of K to 12, but this will be the same problems that other schools will have to face in the future. The program is a work in progress and there will be logistical, curricular and policy inconsistencies that will have to be ironed out in the future.

Prof. Lopez admitted that it will not be an easy feat and it will have "profound implications on the university's resources." Freshmen students will no longer be accepted at UMak in the next two school years, and the permanently there will be no graduation for two school years. The university president, however, disclosed that the College of Allied Health Services (CCAHS) will still accept freshmen since CCAHS is a joint venture with a private institution, thus the administrative structure is different.

## Philippine Women's College to model K to 12 in Mindanao

PHILIPPINE Women's College (PWC) of Matina in Davao City is designing an approach to modelling the implementation of K to 12 in Region XI and Mindanao. PWC president Dr. Analiza B. Reyes and vice president and COO Imelda Bautista announced that the new curriculum since "it is directed for work-employment and college readiness." Dr. Reyes disclosed: "In maintaining the spirit of PWC's pioneering traditions and exemplary model for innovations in private education, the school gave approval of DECS, may start the SY 2012-2013 offering senior high school modelling grades K to 12." to assume a smooth transition when students opt to proceed to college, grades 11 and 12 will be delivered in a semester mode through bubble/open curricular offerings leading to a college diploma and Bachelor's degree. "The words integrated learning will focus on work employment and entrepreneurship, as well as acquiring TESDA certificates of competencies (COCs) and national certifications (NC and NCII)," Dr. Reyes added.

## Miriam students receive diplomatic awards at 62nd Model UN

MIRIAM College International Studies students from Miriam College received Diplomatic Achievements Awards during the 62nd Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) held last April at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, California. They represented four country delegations, namely, the public of Ecuador, Republic of Mauritius, United Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Finland. Allan Wahlberg, who led the Republic of Ecuador delegation, was selected to deliver a speech during the Opening Plenary Sessions for having garnered the highest score in the Latin American bloc. The students prepared country profiles, policy statements and draft resolutions concerning this year's theme, "Calling the Sundial Host: Addressing the International Community's Greatest Problems, to the 21stC." The overall quality of the pre-conference documents submitted to the MUNFW Secretariat and the performance of the students during the actual conferences were the basis of this award. For the past 18 years, Miriam College has been participating annually in the MUNFW, a simulation program for college students in which they learn how the United Nations and its member states work together in addressing the world's most pressing problems. From left, first row, are Christa Bautista, Katherine Andonia, Eraldo Arvin Icasas, Shannon Ravi Uliad, Samantha Louise Buendon, Kesha Ortiz, Jonda Jane Mosqueda, Cristina Lopez; second row, Xiara Bidayanan, Patricia Yvette Duenas, Mariel Perez; third row, May Shayne Jadinao, Patricia Pantilo, and Ronalth Ivan Arao; Nicole Gabrielle Angelica Reyes, Kat Ferrer, Sarah Mariella Jacob; Pamela Teodie Sistoza; picture by Jonaxeth Capulong

## TIP welcomes University of Malaya representatives

TECHNICAL, Institute of the Philippines (TIP), headed by its president Dr. Elizabeth Guerrero-Lahoz, welcomed recently University of Malaya (UM) president and vice chancellor Dr. Ghauth Jasmon and UM international and corporate relations deputy director Dr. Jagdish Kaur at the TIP Manila Campus, Manila. University of Malaya, an internationally known institution of higher learning, ranked no. 1 in innovation, publications and leadership in Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia's oldest university. Earlier this year, TIP signed a memorandum of understanding with UM on sharing of activities and programmes in areas of mutual interest. The visit of Dr. Jasmon and Dr. Kaur strengthens the relationship and cooperation between TIP and UM that will lead to future, detailed agreements for collaborative research, for exchanges, or for other partnership activities. Other TIP officers present during the event were TIPQE research director Dr. Celso Cu; research consultant Dr. Norman Mendoza; VP for Academic Affairs Dr. Cynthia Llanes; TIP Manila research director Dr. Bernard Agana; VP for Administration, Student Services and Linkages Secretary Pedro AVP-Registrar Dr. Elizabeth Pedro; and Linkages Coordinator Donna Marie Palaruan.

## Young Lasallian is US environmental scholar

A GROUP of 29 students from Burma, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, including De La Salle-Lipa's Diana Colleen Ili. Dimayuga, flew to the island of Hawaii on May 6 for the 2012 Study of the United States Institutes on Global Environmental Issues, an innovative four-week environmental leadership program by the US Department of State. Dimayuga, who recently earned her bachelor degree in Biology, was selected to participate in the leadership development workshops and obtain an overview of the US environmental movement throughout her stay at the East West Center's Honolulu campus and field studies in the community. The group will also visit Boulder Colorado and Washington DC for the remaining two weeks of the program. The program is designed to foster a greater understanding of the US environmental movement and aid in the development of the sustainable pathways to environmental measurably.

## Two SanLo students in US for HRM job training

JOSEPH Jeigo Alencia and Margaret Mae Estanislao, both enrolled in Hotel and Restaurant Management at Colegio de San Lorenzo (SanLo), successfully met the requirements for the International Educational and Cultural Exchange Program, and are currently doing their on-the-job training in the US. Alencia is at Williamsburg Hotel and Gold Resort in Wisconsin, and Estanislao is at YMCA-Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado. The two left the country last March 30, and will return on June 29 to resume their MRM studies in SanLo.

## CCP students finish in top 3 of Unilever cook-off

TWO CCP-ICHSIANS students from Centro College of the Philippines finished in the top three final slots of the Unilever Food Solutions Cook Off Showdown held recently at the Unilever headquarters in Pasig, Manila. Ronald Cadiz and Richie Andrew del Mundo of the CCP College of Tourism and Hospitality Management survived two preliminary elimination rounds to make it to the competition's top three. From proposed exemplars Malunggay Crepe Seafood stir-with White Sauce, edible Duchess eclair, and Shrimp and Crab Pasta with White Sauce, both using Knorr products from Unilever. To know more about the BS Tourism Management and BS Hospitality Management courses of CCP, please call 741-2004 or 741-5178 local 2. Or get in touch with the CCP Admissions Office at 2891-0000-0000, or call 713-0170 loc. 134 or 713-6948. E-mail info@ccp.edu.ph

## Ateneo Glee Club wins in Cork choral festival

ATENEO de Manila College Glee Club brought honor to the Philippines when it garnered the Heinrich Schutz Perpetual Trophy, Peace Trophy, and the Petra Ateneo International Trophy (2nd prize in the 58th Cork International Choral Festival in Cork, Ireland.

## Cultural icons exhibit opens at WMSU

THE WMSU Museum (Cultural Icons Exhibit) was formally launched at the Executive Building lobby of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) last May 14. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was headed by university president Dr. Milagros Enriquez-Ho, and head of the NCCA National Committee on Language and Translation Dr. Marlon I. Minoza. The exhibit features the different icons relating to Philippine culture and history that bear national character and regional relevance. "They represent our culture's special features, our history, our traditions and a multitude of hues that make up our national consciousness," Dr. Minoza said. The project is part of the Filipino Cultural Education Program of the NCCA, to which over 6,000 cultural symbols from all over the Philippines were considered and sorted.

## FEU Manila and South Korea students clean up Manila Bay

LAST May 9, 384 students and faculty members from Far East University in South Korea, with brown shirts and plastic bags in hand, trooped to the shores of Manila Bay to pick up plastic bags, cans, and bottles that littered a two-kilometer shoreline stretch, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The activity is part of FEU South Korea's international community extension program in partnership with the Philippines' Far Eastern University Manila. Both schools, who share the same acronym and common interests in collaboration, agreed to tie up for cultural exchange and community extension programs like 200 2 HELI Manila, through its Office of Community Extension Services and Admissions and External Relations Office, proposed the joint endeavor. It is the second time in the month that FEU has done something to help to improve the sanitary and health of our visiting students and faculty members. We have also taken all precautionary measures in coordination with the City Government of Manila and the Philippine Red Cross," said Dr. Miguel Carpio, FEU's vice president for academic services.

## Member Schools

# Remembering Gani Yambot

REFERRING to January 2006 "Businessweek" cover story, "March Will Rock Your World," I came across the quote from Stanford Graduate School of Business professor Paul Pfleiderer: "How (I) easier for people to build houses someone by having architects based on lots of data and graphs. We have to make people be healthier to spot a bogus or genuine."

I thought, "This is exactly what Gani meant! I should show this article to him," but then I sadly remembered that because publisher Ignacio Bunoan had passed away in March 2006.

Where editor Chris Bunal, famous informed me of Gani's passing a day later, my immediate thought was, "We have lost a good man." I then sent a text message to Ate Cayetano, Gani's employee assistant, who replied, "I miss him so much."

I teachers, too, and the tribute to Gani is long overdue.

In March 1995, urged by my college English professor, I turned Fernando Lopez into Inquirer fund columnist. I submitted an article entitled "Why Be Afraid of Math?" to Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, then editor of Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

The article generated considerable reader feed, so Lorna asked me to do more pieces, one of which, the link between volcanoes and earthquakes, became a cover story.

In June that year, she asked me to do a column, and "Isyu-ka!" was born.

## First meeting

The volcano-earthquake story was an unusual for science writing from the Philippine Press Institute. During the event, I met Gani for the first time.

He shook my hand, saying, "Good work! I am glad you are writing for us. Keep it up." Immediately took our picture while we were on stage. I think the Inquirer published the photo in the next day.

In the years to come, I would meet Gani during award ceremonies. One of the regrets of my life is that I do not have in my possession any photo with him.

Some years later, Lorna told me she was leaving the magazine. I had given out only to occasional icons, but to have great affection for her as well. I did not feel comfortable working for someone else.

So I went to Gani's office and, breathlessly (before I could lose my nerve), I told him I was resigning though I would forever be grateful to the Inquirer.

Gani was seated behind his desk, but he came over and sat beside me. He said, "We have been discussing the idea of a weekly science page in the newspaper itself, not the magazine. Can you bring your column to the paper instead? You will be under another editor, but we need a columnist for this page. What do you think?"

Then he smiled.

Gani seemed patiently as thoughts raced through my mind. How could I say no? It was a singular honor, and I said as much to him. He waved away my thanks, saying, "No, thank you for staying with us. If you ever need to talk, I am always here."

## Math session

I never needed to seek an extra appointment. During the few times I visited the Inquirer, I would see him here or his desk, and Gani whispered, "He has been attending meetings the whole afternoon, and he has to go home to sleep now."

I decided not to disturb him, but others he looked up and saw me, he came to the door and greeted me. I blurted out, "Gani, you look so tired! Do you want your boss to take a nap?"

He laughed softly then said, "I have been meeting to ask you...can you do a session on math, especially statistics, for our reporters?"

"But most reporters are not doing math articles, are they?" I asked.

"No, but they are doing news and business. Often they do not understand statistics that well, and I think they misquote the math wrong. Can you give them a primer on basic math, basic statistics, so they can understand facts and figures better?"

"Inquirer's business and news articles are good, Gani, I read them," I said.

"But the writers can always improve," he said. "You should visit us at our session, so you can see the stories, which I want to point out. I go over everything, and I see grammatical errors, factual errors even, and some that I think are mathematical."

Of course, I agreed to help out, and Gani said it would most likely be in the late afternoon.

He talked about this a few more times, and he told Cris to contact me once a schedule was finalized. Unfortunately, up to now I still owe Gani a math session.

## Soft spot

At the wake, when I accosted Gani's pristine look, his wife Mildred revealed the secret. "I put starch on his having every day, the softest starch you can find. Gani takes pride of his appearance. Even when he would get up in the morn, he would dress well, and he would tell me to do so also, just in case someone recognized me."

Gani represented the Inquirer, and he wanted to always be at his best.

When I told Mildred how kind Gani was to me, she said, "Gani has a soft spot for young people with talent. He put several scholars through school. He would also give, not just food, money to staff and reporters who needed it for some emergency."

In the annals of newsmanship, such as the New York Times and the Washington Post, the top people, albeit brilliant, seem to be unsupernatural, raging at quivering writers, reporters and the rest of the staff.

Although Lito not go to the Inquirer office often, I gathered that such Gani at the helm, this was not the case. As the Inquirer, you can be the top newsmanship in the country and still be kind.

*E-mail the author at lbun bisuk@yahoo.com*

# Meet Caroll Spinney, aka Big Bird and Oscar

IT WAS definitely a "sunny day scorepin' the clouds away" that greeted Caroll Spinney when known as Sesame Street's Big Bird, when he visited here recently, upon the invitation of Pediatrica, the division of Unilab Laboratories Inc. that produces children's medicines.

Spinney sang the popular "Sesame Street" song in Big Bird's voice before addressing the recent Philippine Pediatric Society's 49th Annual National Convention at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Apart from speaking at the convention, Spinney was also here for the launch of the Bakap Pediatrica campaign, a multipurpose initiative promoting compassion for children.

Lance Salonga, general manager of Pediatrica, said they wanted to reinforce the new Filipino value of compassion for children by advocating the idea that all children should be involved in creating a caring environment for kids.

The 78-year-old Spinney has been attending pediatricians' conferences because of his roles as Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch in the long-running TV show "Sesame Street," sharing life's lessons and learning, both as the characters he plays and as himself.

In his talks, Spinney, who started playing Big Bird when he was 33 and is now in his 40th year, always emphasizes the qualities his character promotes: compassion, respect, self-confidence, kindness, imagination, tolerance, curiosity and humor.

THE "COMPASSIONATE one" with his grouchy alter ego

"Sesame Street," Spinney said, also touched on big topics such as bullying and death or loss of a loved one, which are not easy to explain to toddlers or even older children.

Spinney was a cartoonist and puppeteer before joining the long-running television program. He has served in the United States Air Force and in the anchor of "Hee-ro-ka-ro-ach," a full-length puppet book. He also wrote, with J. Hellgate, the 2003 book "The Wisdom of Big Bird (and the Dark Genius of Oscar the Grouch): Lessons from a Life in Feathers."

Spinney has won two Grammys and six Emmys, including a lifetime achievement award. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and is a recipient of the Library of Congress' Living Legend award.

He found out recently that Philippine President Benigno Aquino was a ninth cousin of his. The two have not yet met, however.

Spinney said the biggest compliment he got was when people described Big Bird as "the compassionate one." He talked about how, as Big Bird, he had visited a dying boy as the latter's request after the boy died. He had wrote that his son died with a smile and said Big Bird was his friend.

Spinney will be the subject of a full-length documentary by Copper Pot Pictures, "I am Big Bird: The Caroll Spinney Story," which is due for release next year. Spinney lives in New England with his wife Debra. They have three children and four grandchildren.

# Election for UPAA directors ongoing until June 1

THE ELECTION for the fraternity of the Philippines Alumni Association board of directors for 2012-2015 is ongoing until June 1.

A total of 10 directors, representing alumni from various academic units of the UP System, will be elected.

Only members in good standing are eligible to vote. These are regular or honorary members who have paid the annual (P500) or life (P5,000/P10) membership fees.

Accomplished ballots may be hand-delivered or mailed to the UPAA Elections Committee, care of the UPAA Secretariat Office. They should be received at the UPAA office not later than 5 p.m. of June 1.

Canvassing of ballots is on June 2 and will be supervised by the UPAA Elections Committee chaired by Justice Supreme Court senior Associate Justice Jose Bellosillo, with UP professors Ruby G. Alcantara and Wenida El Cupil as members.

The UPAA was founded in 1913. Five years after the founding of UP it has 166 accredited chapters in the Philippines and abroad (as of July 2011).

Visit www.upalumni.ph or call the UPAA Secretariat at 8522-0000 or (632)9280871. The UPAA office is on the 2nd floor of the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City 1101.

# Education that is fun ...

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better as they could be more active partners in their children's education. Even field trips...in China, Thailand and several local destinations—were designed to advance learning, she said, and make students inquiring, curious and motivated.

She added that another major goal was to educate kids to be responsible citizens. "We want to prepare them for the roles and how of responsible citizenship. We want them to be change agents, to know they have roles to play even just at the community level," Serrano said.

She said this was one reason the school was not gated. "We do not want to feel separated from the neighboring communities," she explained. Regular interactions with local tricycle schools are conducted.

Parents and students were so aware of the reality outside their school that after Typhoon "Ondoy," the kids themselves initiated a donation drive to help affected neighboring communities.

*The Jimcon School is at the SCPD Building, 2332 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Tel. No., Taguig City (telefax 8555-0618). E-mail admissions@jimconschool.ph. Visit www.jimconschool.ph.*


## LPU Offers Innovative New Masters Degree Programs

In continuing its legacy of academic excellence and answering the demand for qualified professionals overseas, System of the Philippine University (LPU) Cavite, the Graduate Programs for Advanced Studies is offering two (2) new master's degree programs recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Labor (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as one of the leading institutions for the delivery of Psychology with specialization in Organizational Dynamics and Educational Management.

According to the CHED, only a handful of universities offer the programs in the LUZ is among the group. LPU Cavite is the only university offering these in Cavite. Many other universities also offer similar professionals, such as those in the field of Psychology, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatrists

# Education that is fun but purposeful

Text by Linda B. Bohle
Photos by Jimi Duran Punsalan

ABOUT 14 years ago, a group of parents was faced with a dilemma.

Some had children who were about to enter school. Others, who had just returned from living abroad, had kids who had to continue their schooling after being educated primarily in international schools catering to expatriates.

The local educational landscape did not quite meet what they thought their children needed. "There was a need for a global perspective, for critical and creative thinking. We would like them to be able to ask questions and learn in smarter ways, themselves," founding trustee Dina Lumicao Ponseca said.

Filipino schools, even the exclusive ones, were too Filipino, too focused on "home". International schools, on the other hand, were really just putting children ready for the next country-stop would be in, regardless or not their eventual presence their homelands.

The parents, a handful of whom were educators, wanted to combine the best qualities of both—a school that would give the children a firm grounding in "Filipinohood" while providing them an international perspective to qualify them for any school of their choice, local or foreign, and to live in an increasingly globalized society.

Point no. two: they wanted their kids to be "international but rooted in Philippine culture."

In wanting the children to develop fully their potential, the parents looked for more individualized instruction so the children would not get lost among the scores of learners in the large classrooms even at exclusive schools.

## Chance to blossom

Palaroan said the closer number of students in most classes restricted the help a child could receive. "Each child is different and should be given the opportunity to develop and blossom," she said.

The founders did not really want to open a school, she said, but it ended up that way. They saw an opportunity in effect something different, if only in their own children.

After checking out all the educational systems and programs available, judging them by their goals of giving their children an international education deeply rooted in Philippine culture, the Beacon International School Foundation Inc. decided to adapt the Department of Education's basic education curriculum to the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, becoming the first to be accredited by the International Baccalaureate educational institution" in the country for every level of its academic programs.

PATHWAY: Beacon School's Pathway program ensures a continuous path of learning after a child graduates from the primary years program and moves on to the middle years program.

THE IB program gives children the flexibility to explore their varied interests, like art.

## Small classes

Starting with only 47 children, mainly the founders' and their friends', Beacon initially offered kindergarten to Grade 5 pupils. The school currently has 472 students from kindergarten to Grade 8. Upon Grade 5, each class has only 15 students. The number rises in 10-for Grades 6-8. With only two students per grade, the school maintains an enviable ratio of one teacher per five students.

Current learning spaces include the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD) building in Tagaig City. Class size expansion would be modest, with 300 the comfortable ceiling.

Ponseca said even if they eventually move to their own campus, there would not be a major surge in enrollment.

"We really want to be a small school," she said, as opening branches was out of the question. She said they were more interested in disseminating their experiences and sharing them with those who were interested.

Beacon has extensive curriculum, allowing for the fluid movement of transient students. Average fee per year is $10,000.

Since Beacon opened, Ponseca said, many parents, who worried their kids were "so far behind" in other institutions, had transferred their children to the school. She said parents would later tell her, "My kids were in jail in school."

While many instructions claim they want to make learning fun for students, Palaroan said they wanted to make the pursuit of knowledge fun first and purposeful. Plus was to help children better absorb the lessons taught them.

Class and club members were taught the skills for research, analysis, critical thinking and creativity so they could continue to learn.

Palaroan said they did not want to simply give students answers but also understanding and the ability to make the validity and credibility of information they received and to assess. "Rather than just memorize lessons, we want them to appreciate knowledge," she said.

Palaroan said Beacon hoped to make parents understand IB

EDUCATION 4

DELIGHTFUL: the color-ful signs, a little absence and lessons are still apparent in the library.

SKY bound: (left) are a fitting end to Diamond Jubilee Foundation Day celebrations that included (above) football among friends.

all. IB's recent Foundation Day celebrations at Diamond Jubilee International School (DJIS) lighted colorful lanterns and set them off into the night sky.

Twelve lanterns were lifted off and with them, the hopes of Diamond Jubilee students, teachers, families and friends for creative and resilience, gratitude, to seas, quality growth, peace, oneness, harmony, diversity, tolerance, sustainability and leadership for the school.

As the lanterns were released, DJIS founder Jessy Magsaysay urged the Diamond Jubilee community to "let go of your hesitations to help, free your spirits to soar high and our children to dream for the world."

The theme for the farewell-looking school's 12th anniversary observances at the Philippine Zpra's Commission football field was, after all, "Weight for the World."

The day-long festivities began with essay-writing and poster-making contests for the students. In the afternoon there were fun rides and games, as well as junior activities organized by the students themselves.

Excitement was when the Dream Big Filipinas team met the Diamond Jubilee football varsity players in a friendly football match.

The evening started off with a parade in symbolism the school's journey. The hallmarks of an IB education—commitment, motivation, appreciation, cooperation, curiosity, creativity, confidence, independence, respect, empathy, integrity and tolerance—were shown as represent each of the 12 traits.

With the vision of providing affordable quality education for the Filipino children, Dr. Magsaysay first opened its doors as Diamond Jubilee Academy, nursery and kindergarten children in 2000.

Today, DJIS is a certified IB World School offering the Primary Years Program (PYP) to 250 students aged 3 to 12. It uses the best education practices through the IB program as the foundation for developing international-minded citizens among its students.

In keeping with its goal of developing critical thinking, the school encourages student-centered learning, inquiry and the free exchange of ideas.

DJIS believes in capitalizing on the unique needs and interests of each child as a basis for developing a curriculum based on individualized instructions.

To make learning practical and experiential, it exposes the children early on to real-life, day-to-day experiences and tasks. The small class size allows the teacher to get to know each student better and make sure each has attained mastery of concepts.

To allow its students to better interact with the different people in the community, DJIS has established partnerships with NGOs and school projects.

DJIS has always encouraged the active and collaborative involvement of parents in their children's education.

At the Foundation Day celebration, Magsaysay thanked with love to parents and invited some of them to join in the lighting of the sky lanterns.

(Jessy Jubilee International School is at Elementary 2 of the Philippine Sports Center Complex, Lipang, Pasig City. Call 6726800/6726745/8629626). E-mail info@jubilee.edu.ph; www.jubilee.com.

# Innovations keep school a cut above the rest

When Elizabeth Seton School received last year the Excellence in Educational Transformation Award from ABS-CBN Bayan Academy, Knowledge Channel Foundation and Star Book Store Inc., it topped all five criteria for the award.

It was cited for innovations in curriculum design and development, learning materials, learning methodologies and delivery systems, administrative systems and processes and learning spaces and places.

The Elizabeth Seton School started with kindergarten and nursery. It now has 2,500 preschool, grade school and high school students on campus in Las Piñas City and 1,000 more in Imus, Cavite province.

Its founder is Dr. Marcia A. Reyes Academy chair, said the school, by incorporating to its curriculum innovations like the integration of entrepreneurship, multiple intelligences and Understanding by Design, "sought to produce students who were independent and lifelong learners with critical thinking skills, leadership capabilities, technical know-how, as well as Catholic and Filipino values."

The awards ceremony at Jaime Jr. Boulevard in Taguig City.

In the book "Pogus pays on Principal," which profiled the 16 honor grads, Dr. Reyes Dimalo called her a "mover-ick." Seaton, in her speech, said that "only those willing to take risks, work hard and plod on despite the odds will eventually succeed."

Her reputation made her 8th Family Savings Bank's choice as image model for its "A Lesson in Integrity" advertising campaign in 2000.

Seaton's religiosity, drive, integrity and integrity "have helped propel her school to the top.

While a grade school teacher at De La Salle University, she was sent on a scholarship to the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii by the late Fr. Andrew Gonzalez, then university president, to specialize in bilingual education and instructional materials production.

On her return, she was made head of the grade school English department.

In the early period, she wrote 71 preschool textbooks such as "Writing...a Joyful Experience for Kindergarten" and "Mathematics for Everyday Living."

When she married Eduardo A. Seaton in 1975, Le Salle's grade school moved to Alabang. Her sister Evelyn's husband, Francisco Abdo, encouraged her to open her own school instead of commuting to Alabang every day.

The Elizabeth Seton School is at B7 Rosary Village, Las Piñas City (tel. 8754353/85). Visit www.es.edu.ph.

# Interactive 3-D lessons are engaging, time savers

ETON International School has introduced the three-dimensional (3-D) learning program Eurekia, which is now an integral part of the curriculum from preschool to high school.

The first school in the country to use the e-learning software for science, mathematics, biology chemistry and physics, Eton will soon add world history to the lineup of interactive subjects.

Eurekia uses 3-D, traditionally used for entertainment, to engage students so they can learn on lessons presented by the program. Included in the software are a number of 3-D simulations, videos, quizzes, tests, images, Web links and more.

With the use of 3-D technology, students become more interested in the lessons and are able to retain more information and concepts.

WEARING 3-D glasses, Eton students watch Eurekia lessons.

School director Jacqueline Manson Delacruz said students kept wanting more and would not stop learning. Eton was making new technology the students' ally on their pursuit of knowledge.

The technology also saved teachers' time when explaining difficult concepts to students. Mendiola's senior account executive Ryn Policarpio said. Teachers could concentrate on facilitating lessons.

To ensure the Eurekia software was fully functional in seven grades, Eton invested in 3 D LCD projectors, smart boards and high-end computers for all classrooms.

Starting this school year, the school is also equipping its students with iPads for use in research and other learning activities. The tablets will contain some of the e-textbooks Eton will use in the coming school year.

Visit www.etoninternational.com or the Eton campuses at 1839 Dr. Vicente St., Molino, Bacoor, and No. 3 Hayes St. corner J. Abad Santos Avenue, Mla. Subdivision, Quezon City (telephone Nos. 5227903 or 7262994-95).